OPINION /A12

Isagani Cruz: The Arroyo camp could aim for a Round 2 on the people's inititative at the SC, after Chief Justice Panganiban's retirement. He should lead in preventing such chicanery against the people.

WEATHER

'Paeng' intensifies into a typhoon, heads for central, northern Luzon

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Buy lots of good luck at Manila's feng shui emporium • Killer cuisine: What the cold-blooded crave • Ghostbusting 911 for the possessed, the haunted • the exorcist and more...

LIGHT SPIRIT

US elections are filthy, as in germs, parasites

YAAAK! KADIRI NAMAN!

WASHINGTON—CAMpaigns are filthy. Not only in terms of last-minute smears and dirty tricks.

But also filthy, as in germs, parasites and all the bacterial unpleasantness that is spread around through so much

US ELECTIONS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, October 29, 2006 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 323 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Purchasing officers urged to 'buy green'

By Volt Contreras

A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN SPECIFIcally calls on purchasing officers in both the public and private sectors to help pressure industries to be more earth-friendly.

While other eco-drives have been directed at the average consumer, "GP3" seeks to tap the power of "bulk buyers"—or those who decide

PURCHASING/ A19

'We remain loyal to GMA'

The Firm denies hand in SC's Cha-cha ruling

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"THE FIRM" REAFFIRMED YESTERDAY ITS LOYalty to its most prized client, President Macapagal-Arroyo, but said it was in agreement with the Supreme Court's decision throwing out the petition for a people's initiative to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Villaraza & Angangco (formerly Carpio Villaraza & Cruz) "categorically denied" speculation that it had a hand in the high court's strongly worded decision written by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, a founding partner of the firm.

It also said it had never been involved at any point with the President's campaign to have the Constitution amended preparatory to a shift to the unicameral-parliamentary system.

"All the partners of The Firm declare that they remain fierce and loyal defenders of the President and her administration," F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, managing partner of Villaraza & Angangco, said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

"The Firm categorically denies any involvement in the recent Supreme Court ruling penned by Justice Antonio T. Carpio junking the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan to amend the Constitution through the people's initiative," he added.

A Malacañang official and a top lawyer, who had both asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER on Friday that Carpio's vote and his barbed words on the Palace-backed people's initiative indicated a falling out between the President and The Firm.

'WE REMAIN/ A19

WHAT'S INSIDE

PDI'S man in Hollywood waits in vain for Gina Pareño at the Hawaii film fest, and why Kirsten Dunst felt lonely playing Marie Antoinette.

ENTERTAINMENT / I1

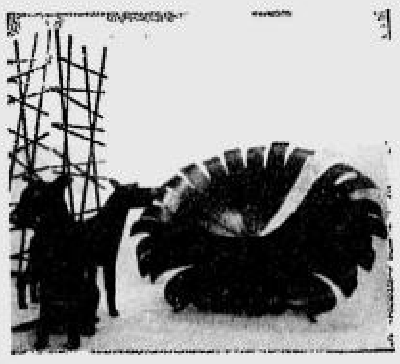
Cardinals
36

Weaver pitches 9 strikeouts, hurls underdog Cardinals to World Series crown.

SPORTS / A28

First Davao, today Manila, tomorrow the world? Or how a housewife's instant mixes of 'puto-kutsinta,' maja blanca, etc., are set to go global.

SUNDAY BIZ/ B1



At Home: All that glitters is not gold as Pinoy furniture reaches its crystal age.

LIFESTYLE / E1

Arms for Farms deal turns rebels into farmers, fishermen

By Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER MORO REBELS—AND even Abu Sayyaf members and their families—are now tilling the land they once fought for in Sulu.

At a roundtable discussion in Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo cited the "Arms for Farms" scheme being implemented by Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong, which helped 25,000 members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) till and benefit from the yield of 8,500 hectares of land.

The President said Sulu used to top the list of the poorest provinces in the country but now its poverty incidence is down to 47 percent from 67 percent.

She said former MNLF members were now living peacefully as fishermen, farmers and soldiers of the government.

"There are many programs for people who would want to exchange their arms for farms—for those who want to turn [their] swords into plow shares, as mentioned in the Bible," Ms Arroyo said.

Loong said that under the Arms for Farms program, his office offered the use of farm tractors to land owned or tilled by former combatants in areas in Sulu.

It also provided them with planting materials delivered on site. Come harvest time, the yield all went to the combatant-farmers.

"So that's our agreement—they store away their

ARMS/ A8

RIZAL PARK IN CHINA: President Arroyo pays her respects to Jose Rizal who has a monument in Siongque village in Jinjian City, Fujian province, the birthplace of the national hero's ancestors. At 18.61 meters, it's taller than the 12-meter high Rizal monument at the Luneta. Enshrined in a 5-ha park, the Chinese monument is made of the world-famous Jinjiang granite. It was inaugurated three years ago.

PCPO-MALACAÑANG PHOTO

GMA calls for joint Sino-RP exploration of S. China Sea

By Christine O. Avendaño

NANCHANG CITY (VIA PLDT/SMART)—PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for more joint exploration activities in the disputed South China Sea as a means to strengthen the partnership between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and China, which she said "has never been better or stronger."

The President said she would issue the same call when she sits as co-chair of the Asean-China commemorative summit in Nanning on Oct. 30-31. The summit will celebrate 15 years of partnership between the regional grouping and China.

Security, prosperity and poverty are among the issues that President Arroyo said would be tackled in the Nanning summit and later in the Philippines, which will host the Asean leaders' summit in December.

Speaking before students of Nanchang University, the President said that Asean and Chinese leaders were expected to issue a declaration after the summit "on what our visions would be like for the next generation."

She then shared with the students "some of my thoughts about what I would tell my other colleagues" during the Asean-China summit on how to strengthen this partnership.

Saying there was a need to promote confidence-building measures between the two sides, President Arroyo called for a joint exploration in the South China Sea—which she noted had already been done by the Philippines, China and Vietnam, all claimants to some parts of the South China Sea.

"What we have done in Asean-China, we have turned that area of possible conflict into an area of cooperation instead because China and the Philippines agreed that instead of fighting all the time over that sea we will conduct joint seismic research in SCS [South China Sea]," she said.

Vietnam later joined them after initially objecting to the joint exploration between Manila and Beijing. Since then, Ms Arroyo said, the three countries have been able to conclude their joint seismic research in the area.

"We should go forward now," President Arroyo said. "Now that the seismic research has been done and the findings are being collated, if warranted we should consider having joint exploration in the South China Sea."

The President also suggested intensifying interactions between Asean and China through more trade, investment and tourism.

She also called for the allocation of adequate resources to "steer the relations and cooperation for mutual benefit, such as China providing preferential loans to support projects invested in by Chinese companies with Asean."

Saying that China played an important and strategic role in the economic development and

GMA/ A8

LOW-KEY VISIT TO PAYATAS

Japanese football star drops in

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

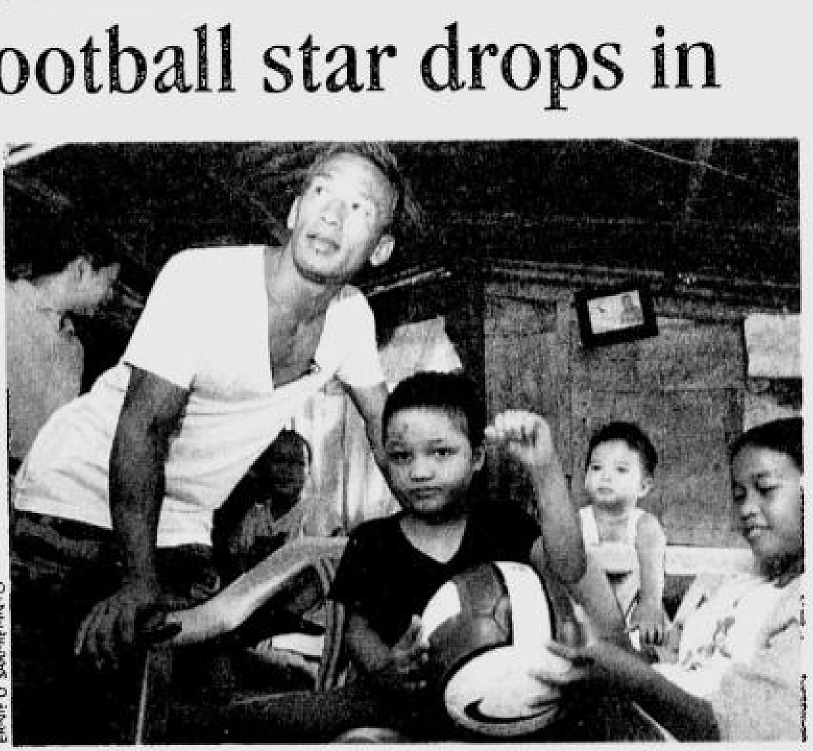
FOR 7-YEAR-OLD NESTOR Lopez Jr., the day began like any other, waking up in the family's cramped one-room shelter with a view of the mountain of trash in Payatas, Quezon City.

So it came as a surprise when Lopez and his family were visited yesterday morning by 29-year-old Hidetoshi Nakata, a former Japanese soccer player, one of the most famous Asian footballers of his generation.

Nakata talked with Lopez for 10 minutes, unmindful of the little boy's allergies that have left his skin riddled with sores.

Nakata ended his short visit by giving Lopez a brand new football. The little boy wordlessly thanked the global sports star by

JAPANESE/ A19



ERNIE U SARMIENTO

HOW OTHER SIDE LIVES. Football superstar who captained Japan's soccer team in the last World Cup, Hidetoshi Nakata, pays a surprise visit to the home of Nestor Lopez Jr. in Payatas and gifts him with a football.

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Catanduanes will experience stormy weather while the rest of Eastern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Mindanao will be partly cloudy to cloudy with rains.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQ RESEARCH/10/28/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Stormy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Stromy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Stormy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'Paeng' now a typhoon; warnings up

By Blanche S. Rivera and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "PAENG" HAS INTENSIFIED INTO A TYphoon and was headed for Central and Northern Luzon as of 5 p.m. yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

The typhoon, with maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 150 kph, was spotted by radar 290 km east-northeast of Virac, Catanduanes, or 510 km east-southeast of Casiguran, Aurora.

Pagasa said public storm signal No. 2 (meaning travel by sea is risky) remained hoisted over Catanduanes. Signal No. 1—the least severe—was raised over the Camarines provinces, Albay, Sorsogon, northern Quezon, Polillo Island, Aurora, Quirino, Isabela, southern Cagayan and Northern Samar.

The bureau defines tropical storms as having winds of 64 kph to 118 kph while a typhoon has winds exceeding 118 kph.

"Paeng" is expected to make landfall tomorrow afternoon over the Aurora-Isabela area before crossing to Ifugao, Mt. Province and Ilocos Sur. It will be moving away from the country on Tuesday, when it is expected to be 460 km west-southwest of Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Learning from the signal No. 3 Typhoon "Milenyo" experience, Malacañang has asked local government and barangay officials to prepare now for the coming typhoon.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said all LGU and barangay officials should clear the streets of all objects and debris that could be blown away by strong winds.

He said that the officials should make sure that all trees were pruned, especially those weakened by the previous typhoon, to prevent severed branches from tripping power lines. Restoration efforts after "Milenyo" were hampered by trees and branches that brought down power poles and lines and obstructed roads.

Ermita also ordered the officials to be prepared to assist in post-typhoon cleanup to speed up normalization.

"Milenyo," the worst typhoon to hit the country in a decade, brought unprecedented destruction. It took more than a week before power was fully restored in Metro Manila after it passed.

Pagasa itself advised those planning trips to Bicol and Samar yesterday to stay put until "Paeng" crossed the region and headed for Central Luzon.

It also advised the Philippine Coast Guard to temporarily stop the movement of sea vessels on the Sorsogon-Masbate, Albay-Catanduanes and Sorsogon-Northern Samar routes while the typhoon was moving over the Bicol region.

Those who are headed for Northern and Central Luzon were advised to leave as soon as possible because "Paeng" would hit the areas tomorrow morning based on its current direction.

Pagasa also advised bus companies to limit their passengers and schedule their trips according to the advisories it issued because travel to certain destinations could be "critical" at specified times.

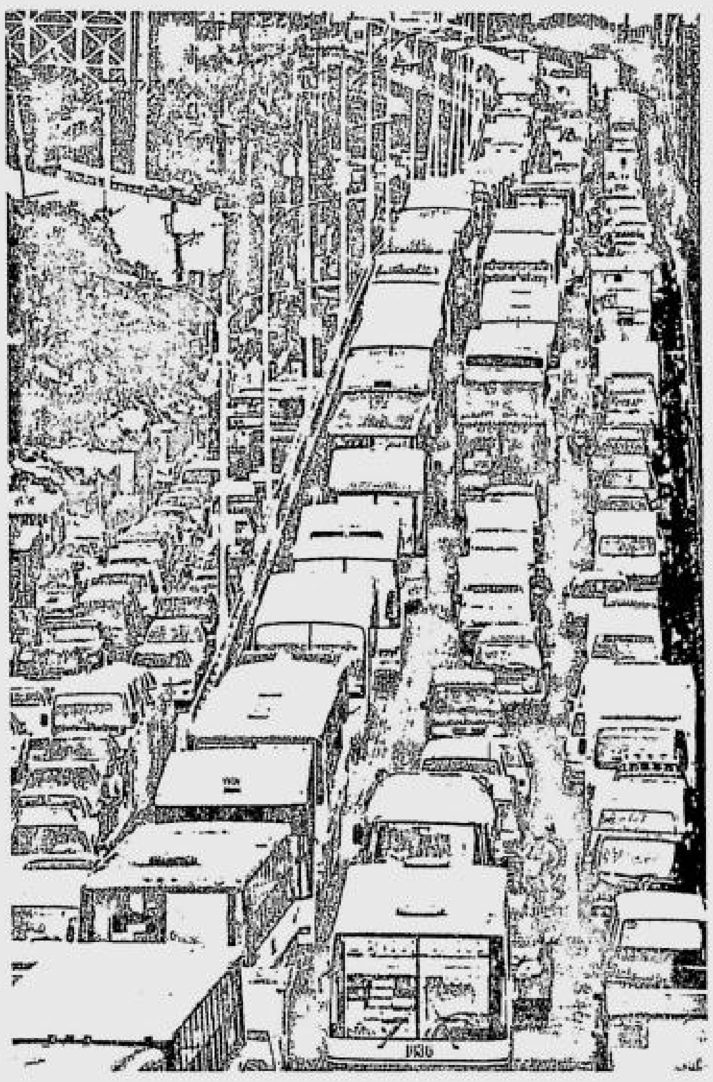
"Our concern is that people could be stranded. On ordinary days, thousands get stranded (when they ignore warnings). How much more now, when everyone is going home (for All Souls Day)? The number of those that can be stranded can easily number thrice the usual," Pagasa weather chief Nathaniel Cruz said.

For his part, Pagasa's Prisco Nilo said: "Even if tropical storm Paeng is predicted to move toward Central Luzon, due to its large circulation, the storm will still affect the Bicol region and Samar. This will lead to the cancellation of sea travel by small ships plying the area."

Filipinos usually troop to their home provinces for the All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebrations when families gather and remember the departed. The government has declared Nov. 1 a holiday.

Pagasa has also advised local officials in the affected areas of the intensity and direction of "Paeng," adding they should not claim to be uninformed when the typhoon hits their localities.

"The storm could also bring a large volume of rainwater to the watershed of Pantabangan Dam that could trigger the opening of its floodgates for the first time since it was constructed more than 20 years ago and pose a serious threat to nearby communities," Pagasa said.



BUMPER TO BUMPER TO BUMPER
Vehicles form long lines on Edsa after the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority began repairing portions of the thoroughfare for three consecutive weekends beginning 10 p.m. Fridays until 4 a.m. Mondays until the first week of December. The public is advised to avoid the southbound lane of Quezon Avenue, Connecticut Street in Cubao, the Aurora Boulevard underpass in Quezon City, the northbound lane in front of SM Megamall in Ortigas, Estrella and Orense Streets as well as C-5 Road at Kalayaan in Makati. JOAN BONDOC

Ecija farmers dread the rains at this time

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—EVEN BEFORE IT COULD make landfall, Typhoon "Paeng" has stirred up a storm among various sectors in Luzon.

While waterworks and irrigation officials are praying for more rain to increase the water level at Angat Dam, rice growers in Nueva Ecija said a typhoon at this time of the year is bad news for them.

Serafin Santos, Nueva Ecija agriculturist, said hundreds of millions of pesos worth of *palay* (unhusked rice) ready for harvest may be destroyed because of strong rains. Farmers here are redoubling their efforts to quickly harvest and thresh their palay to take advantage of the still prevailing good weather conditions.

In case of sudden rains, the quality of their harvests would deteriorate and lessen their value in the market.

He said only 35 percent of the more than 180,000 hectares planted to rice this cropping season had been harvested." There are still more than 100,000 hectares of palay to be harvested," Santos said.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed that because of an approaching tropical depression (*See story above*), many buyers stopped taking in newly harvested palay to avoid difficulties in drying their grain. Some are using the approaching storm as a reason to lower their offer price for palay, from the prevailing P9.50 a kilo to P8.50/kg.

Santos said the harvest was already delayed because the rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities set back the planting schedule. And now, another storm is coming.

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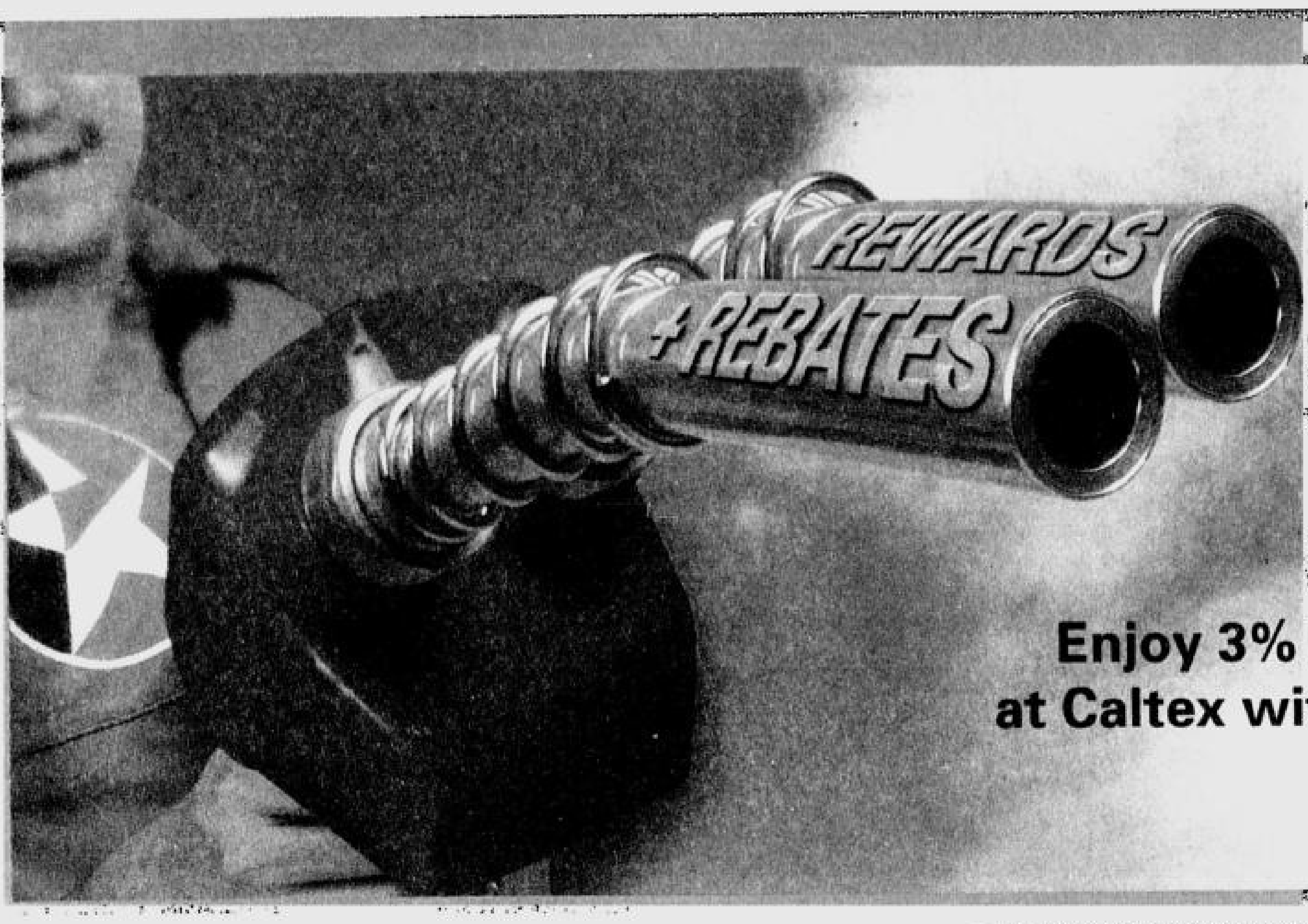
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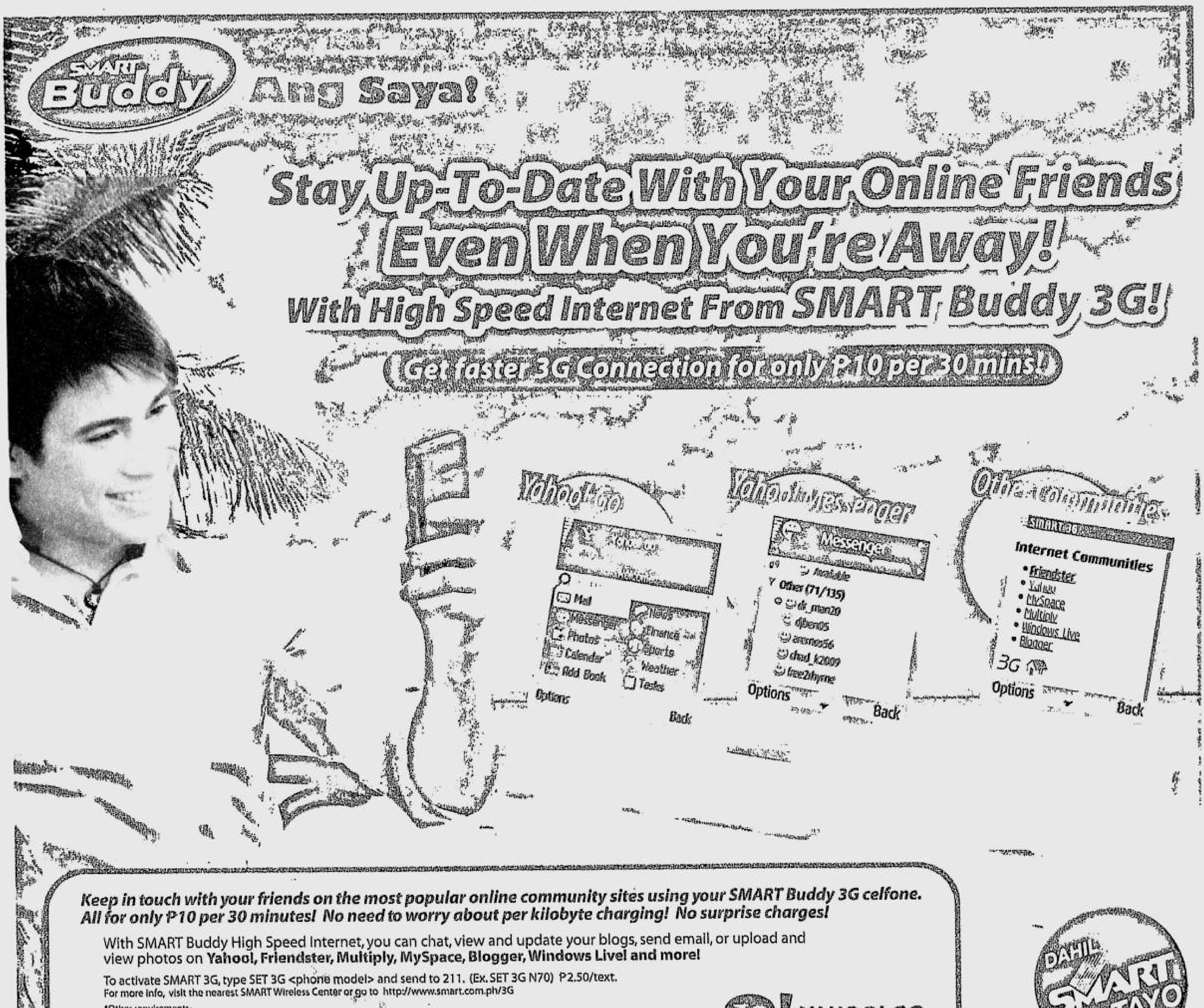
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YAHOO! GO

DAHIL SMART TAYO

Satur beats Gonzalez to the draw, is finally able to leave for Japan

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez tried his best to make Bayan Muna party-list representative and House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo sign a pledge not to criticize the Arroyo administration while in Japan—but he failed.

Ocampo had breezed through the strict check-in procedures of Northwest Airlines, only to be surprised by Gonzalez's last-ditch effort at curtailing his trip at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport immigration counter.

Gonzalez yesterday announced he would allow Ocampo to leave the country once he presented a court order, saying the opposition leader deserved to be barred from leaving because of his criticism of the Arroyo administration in all his foreign trips.

Armed with a court order from Judge Cesar Untalan of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150, an indignant Ocampo told immigration officers: "If I don't sign that waiver, will you stop me again?"

Untalan issued the written order yesterday, a day after he approved Ocampo's motion for a travel clearance in an open court proceeding. Gonzalez had refused to recognize an oral order but he also failed to present a court order backing his instruction to include Ocampo in the Department of Justice's hold-departure list.

Ocampo said the immigration officer had no choice but to abide by Untalan's order. The unidentified immigration officer tried to call Gonzalez and, unable to reach him, stamped Ocampo's passport and permitted him to board Northwest Airlines flight NW 020 bound for Tokyo.

"This so-called waiver or affidavit that Gonzalez wishes to obtain from me is nonsense. He should likewise respect a valid order from a proper court," Ocampo said.

"*Sobra na yung panggigitgit at di patas. Kahapon sabi* court order *lang. Ngayon may* waiver *at masamang* insinuation *tungkol sa mga* court order. *Kesyo hindi daw kami sumusunod sa* court order. ("It's too much. Yesterday, they only asked for a court order. Now they want a waiver. They say we were not following the court orders.) It's Gonzalez's fault it became a big issue," Ocampo said.

Asked by reporters if he would file charges against Gonzalez, Ocampo said Bayan Muna general counsel Neri Colmenares and other lawyers were studying their options.

While in Japan, Ocampo will meet with leaders of the Social Democratic Party which has six members in the Japanese Diet (Parliament), Japanese solidarity groups and several Filipino migrant organizations. He will also address a conference on the Philippine human rights situation.

For his part, Colmenares challenged Gonzalez to present the waiver supposedly signed by Ocampo prior to his recent foreign trips. The justice secretary had claimed Ocampo had violated the waiver that purportedly contained a pledge not to criticize the country while abroad.

"Secretary Gonzalez should show that waiver to the public. Ka Satur will never agree to surrendering or curtailing his fundamental rights, especially the rights to free speech and to seek redress of grievances against this rotten government," Colmenares said.

He said Gonzalez's barring of Ocampo's trip will be relayed to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Amnesty International, United Nations and other interested bodies as "solid proof of the Arroyo government's policy of persecution against progressive legislators, activists and other perceived foes of the President."

Palace to review 'toxic' RP-Japan pact

By Blanche S. Rivera

IN A BID TO PREEMPT A "bloody fight" in the Senate, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita assured environmentalists on Friday that he would order a review of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) before it reaches the Senate for ratification when the chamber resumes sessions next month.

Environmental lawyer and Green Initiatives chief Mimi Sison said Ermita was also concerned that the treaty, the first and most important bilateral agreement inked by the Philippines in 60 years, would violate national and international laws.

"He affirmed our concerns. It gave us some hope that he said he would order a revisit of the JPEPA. He's also worried that it violates international and Philippine laws," Sison told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"It is within their power to review and revise, and better they do it now before it goes to the Senate because this will destroy them," she said.

Ermita met with Sison, Mother Earth founder Odette Alcantara and University of the Philippines garbologist Metodio Palaypay in Malacañang at noon Friday.

The JPEPA was signed on Sept. 9 by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

The JPEPA, which covers 11,300 tariff lines or commodities, mandates zero tariff for waste and materials deemed hazardous under Republic Act No. 6969 or The Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act of 1990, and the Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that Malacañang would not allow the entry of toxic and hazardous waste listed in the Annex I Philippine schedule of the JPEPA, which includes sewage sludge, incinerator ash, clinical waste, pharmaceutical waste, municipal waste, among other things.

Article 29 of the basic agreement of the JPEPA defines originating goods from both countries as articles that are fit only for disposal and cannot be repaired or restored anymore.

"We gave him (Ermita) a summary of Philippine laws being violated. He seemingly agreed, and we laud his statement, but no matter what he says, no one will believe him until Article 29 is there, so we told him the best thing to do is to delete it," Sison said.

"When this thing reaches the Senate, it will be bloody... He seemed to recognize the conflict, and he said he also did not want dumping here," she said.

The environmentalist groups will also meet with chief Philippine negotiator Thomas Aquino on Monday to discuss the JPEPA and its implications on the environment.

Roco widow to join 2007 Senate race

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—SONIA MALAsarte Roco, the widow of the late Sen. Raul S. Roco, announced on Thursday she had decided to run for senator in the 2007 midterm elections now that the people's initiative to amend the Constitution had been junked by the Supreme Court.

Saying she wanted to continue her husband's concerns on women, the youth and education, Roco said she would run under Aksyon-Demokratiko, the political party of her husband in his bid for the presidency in 2004. The party is now headed by Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan.

She said she and Tan had been holding exploratory talks with the Liberal Party-Roxas/Drilon wing but nothing definite had come out of the talks so far.

Rep. Nereus Acosta, LP secretary general, confirmed that there were indeed exploratory talks with Aksyon-Demokratiko which, he said, also involved Sen. Franklin Drilon and Sen. Mar Roxas.

Roco said she was also open to whatever terms of cooperation they could agree on with Mark Jimenez who met with her in Legazpi City in August where the former lawmaker distributed relief goods to evacuees of the Mayon volcano eruption.

She, her brother-in-law Sulpicio Roco Jr., one-time representative of Camarines Sur's second district and younger brother of the late senator, and Jimenez joined the relief operation in Albay.

"Mark Jimenez invited me to join him in the relief operation and I accepted," Roco said.

She explained that Jimenez was a friend of Sulpicio's from the House of Representatives in 2001 to 2004.

"We have not talked substantially about matters," Roco said, referring to the possibility of forging an alliance and joining forces and resources with Jimenez.

She also said Women in Nation-Building—a network of women's groups with a presence in Mindanao, the Visayas, Bicol and Southern Tagalog—had thrown its support behind her plan to run for a Senate seat.

DOJ wants Palparan

RETIRED ARMY MAJ. GEN. Jovito Palparan has found a backer in Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez confirmed he was trying to woo Palparan out of retirement to become an intelligence and security adviser in the Department of Justice.

"He's a good soldier, he has experience on matters of intelligence and security. Intelligence is important in the DOJ in investigating cases ranging from the minor to the most heinous," Gonzalez said in a recent interview with reporters.

"But he has not accepted yet," he added.

Gonzalez said Palparan was "ambivalent" because "he wants a more active participation in government and not just as a consultant."

Palparan retired on Sept. 11. He was the chief nemesis of communist rebels and militants, which earned for him the moniker of "the butcher."

President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government and military officials, however, lauded his record in the anti-insurgency campaign. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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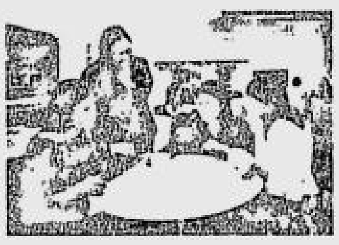

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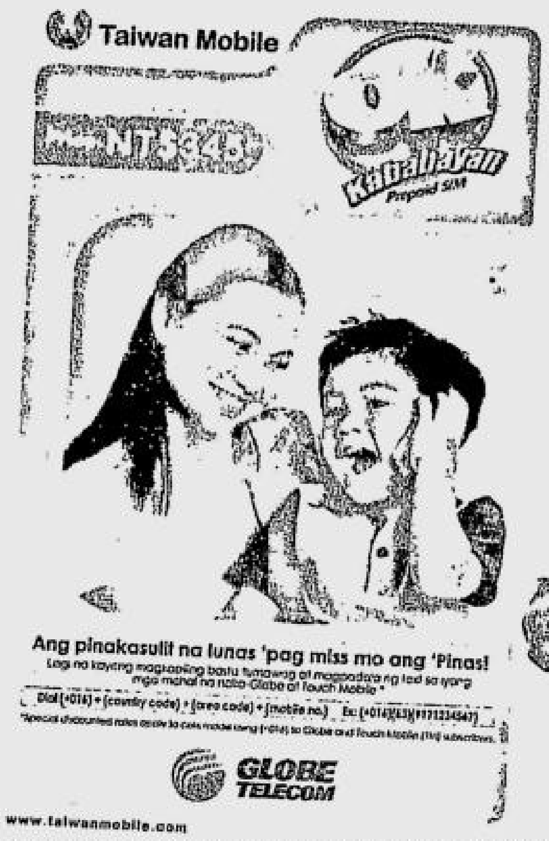
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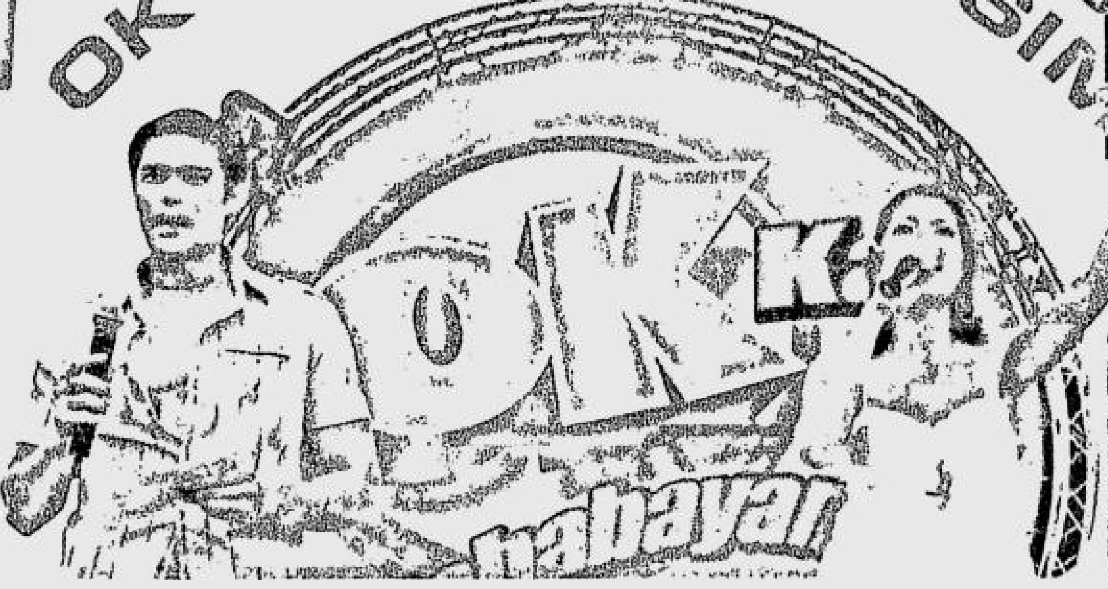
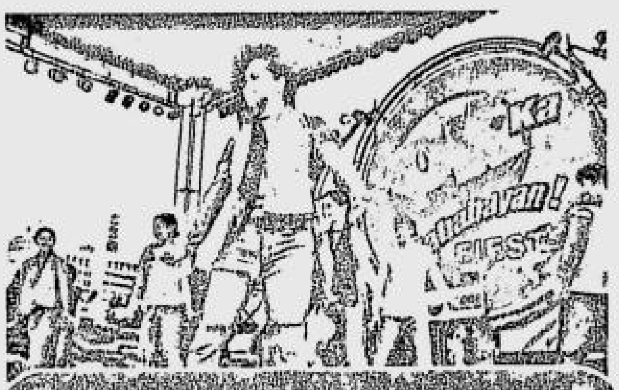

OK Kababayan

Halos isandaang-libong Overseas Filipino Workers sa Taiwan at ang kanilang mga pamilya dito sa Pilipinas ang makikinabang sa sulit at abot-kayang call and text rates na hatid ng bagong ***OK KABABAYAN SIM*** na handog ng Globe Telecom sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa Taiwan Mobile.

Sa katunayan, libo-libong Pinoy ang nagdiwang nang i-launch ang ***OK KABABAYAN SIM*** recently sa Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall. Ito na raw ang pinakamalaki at pinakamasayang pagtitipon ng mga Pinoy na ginanap sa Taiwan.



Ang kauna-unahang prepaid SIM card para sa mga Pinoy sa Taiwan ay hatid ng Globe sa tulong ng Taiwan Mobile, na kapwa bahagi ng Bridge Mobile Alliance na siya namang pinakamalaki at pinakamalakas na partnership ng mga telecom companies sa buong Asia-Pacific. Kaya naman siguradong makakaasa kayo at ang inyong mga loved ones sa Taiwan sa serbisyong ito.

Lowest mobile call and text rates from Taiwan!

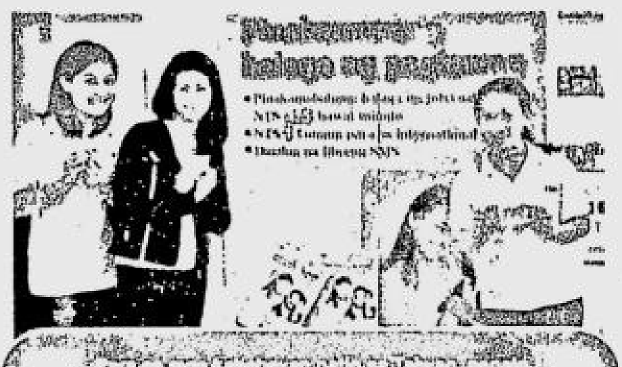
The ***OK KABABAYAN SIM*** offers the lowest mobile rates for calls made to Globe and Touch Mobile (TM), mas mababa ng at least 50% kumpara sa ibang Taiwan-based cellular providers.

OK KABABAYAN SIM offers an IDD rate of NT$4.50 per minute for calls to Globe and TM as compared to the NT$9.50-11 per minute of other cellular operators in Taiwan.

Ang NT$1 na charge ng ***OK KABABAYAN SIM*** para sa international SMS to Globe and TM ay cheaper compared sa NT$5 per ISMS ng ibang Taiwan cellular operators. Ok Kababayan subscribers also get free 20 domestic SMS for every NT$ 300 OK card reloaded into the SIM.

Call Taiwan at special IDD rates

In the Philippines, sa pamamagitan ng Globe Super Sulit Tipid IDD Promos, calls to Taiwan Mobile are offered at the local rate of P7.50 per minute or approximately US$0.13, mas mura sa other networks which charge as high as US$0.40 per minute.



Bringing the global Pinoy family together

"Committed ang Globe to bring Filipino families closer together through their cellphones," ayon kay Andrew Buay, Globe Chief Operating Advisor.

Sabi naman ni Ferdinand dela Cruz, Globe Head for Consumer Business: "Gusto naming ipakita sa OFW families na ang Globe ang cellular network na maaasahan nila para sila'y makapag-ugnayan sa abot-kayang halaga."

Dahil sa ***OK KABABAYAN SIM*** ng Globe at Taiwan Mobile, Pinoys in Taiwan now have a more affordable and reliable way to keep their family together. For more info, log-on to: ***www. globekababayan.com.ph***

Taiwan Mobile

ang lakas mo sa
Globe

[illegible] Dingdong Dantes, and Geneva Cruz ay ilan lamang sa mga hot celebrities sa OK Kababayan SIM launch.

Kinagiliwan ng mga OFWs ang mga celebrities na dala ng Globe sa EEC outlet sa Chong San.

Libu-libong Pinoys ang nakisali sa festivities sa launch ng OK Kababayan SIM sa Chaing Kai Shek Memorial Hall.

WHO cites 2 RP cities for health efforts

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION on Saturday commended eight cities in the Asia-Pacific region, including Marikina and Tagaytay, for programs aimed at improving the health of their populations.

Cities in the Philippines, Australia, China, Japan and South Korea were given awards for a range of initiatives including the promotion of breast-feeding, reduction of gender-based violence and plans to improve the health of people living in urban slums.

The WHO's acting regional director for the Western Pacific, Dr. Richard Nesbit, gave out the awards in ceremonies in Suzhou, China, the world health body's regional office in Manila said in a statement.

South Korea's Wonju city received a Good Practice Award for innovative approaches to financing health promotion activities and Jeju city was recognized for best practices in breast-feeding and protecting people in their work places.

Kunshan city in China's Jiangsu province received two Good Practice Awards for fighting gender-based violence and improving the quality of care through a mother-friendly hospital initiative.

The city of Marikina in the Philippines was cited for its health emergency preparedness and response planning.

Best Proposal awards went to Japan's Ichikawa City and the Philippines' Tagaytay City and Marikina City.

Ichikawa was given $10,000 (about P500,000) in seed money for its plans to improve the health of its urban slum dwellers.

Tagaytay City was given $10,000 for proposals to improve housing, while Marikina City was awarded $5,000 (about P250,000) for its emergency preparedness project.

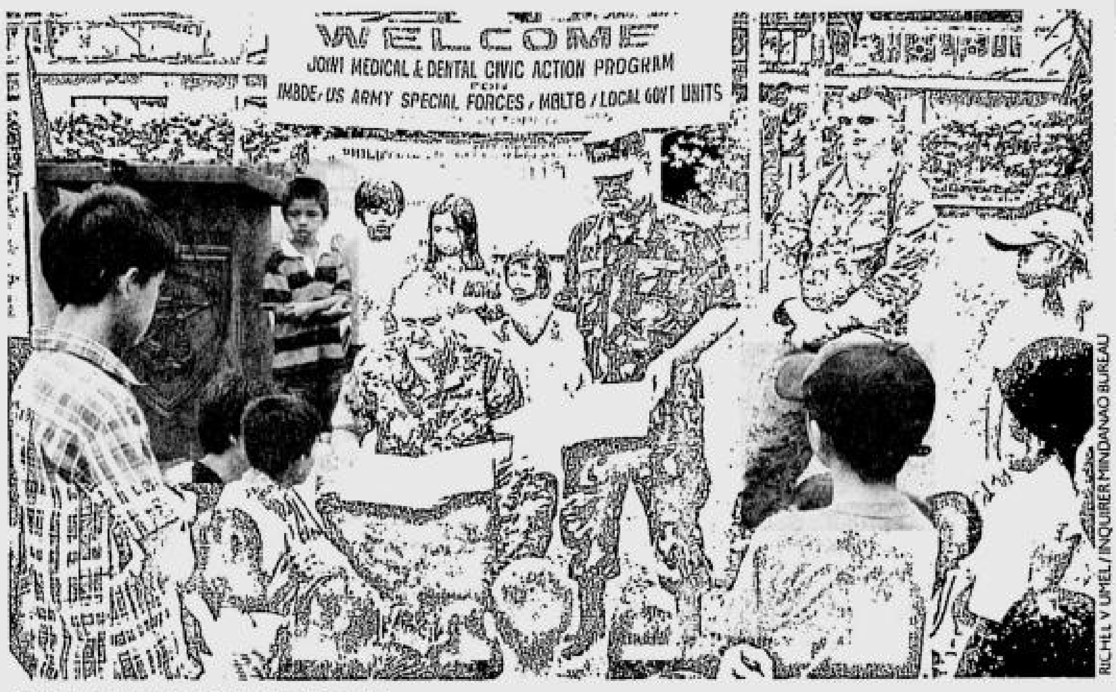
Japan's Miyakojima City and Australia's Noarlunga City received the Regional Director's Award, an honorary recognition presented to cities that have a track record in sustained improvement of the overall quality of life of their citizens, the WHO statement said.

Miyakojima was commended for programs since 1994 that encourage physical activity. The city has provided walking paths and organized an international triathlon, promoted healthy dietary habits and helped preserve coral reefs and water quality.

Noarlunga's projects since 1987 have tackled health issues linked to unemployment, multicultural activities, water quality and environmental health issues.

More than 400 delegates from 21 countries in the Asia and Pacific are taking part in the Alliance for Healthy Cities' general assembly in Suzhuo from Saturday to Monday, the WHO said.

The Healthy Cities approach was introduced by WHO almost two decades ago in the Western Pacific Region, and more than 100 cities have adopted it since then. *AP*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JOINT MEDICAL & DENTAL CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM
FOR
IMBDE/US ARMY SPECIAL FORCES/MBLTB/LOCAL GOVT UNITS

RICHEL V UMEL/INQUIRER MINDANAO BUREAU

LET ME TELL YOU A STORY
Children gather around a US military officer reading an illustrated book on the 9/11 attacks on the United States, in Marawi City, where the US military is on maneuvers with their Filipino counterparts.

Higher pay for domestics backed

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS of the Philippines yesterday expressed support for the plan of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration to double the minimum monthly pay of Filipino domestic helpers to be deployed abroad from $200 to $400.

The TUCP also agreed with the POEA's proposal to raise the minimum age of domestic helpers from 21 to 25.

"The twin measures should help discourage the deployment of young and unschooled domestic helpers who are extremely vulnerable to employer abuse," said TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera.

The POEA resolution on the wage hike and the age requirement is expected to be implemented next month. The resolution also includes a provision scrapping placement fees in the recruitment of domestics.

Herrera noted that there were already many Filipino domestics abroad who were earning more than $400 a month such as those working in Taiwan, who get the equivalent of P27,000 or about $500 monthly.

The Federated Associations of Manpower Exporters earlier claimed that the higher minimum salary and age requirements might spur the illegal recruitment of more domestic helpers for overseas work.

The claim, however, was "exaggerated," Herrera said, adding that rigorous enforcement was the only real solution to the illegal recruitment of workers.

"Illegal recruitment is a law enforcement issue; the only sure way for government to check the problem is by doggedly apprehending, prosecuting and putting behind bars as many illegal recruiters as possible," the former senator said.

Nevertheless, Herrera said that despite the government's SuperMaid program, which aims to give departing maids skills upgrades and other training to secure better pay, Filipino domestics would remain vulnerable to employer abuse and their skills could be easily matched by competitors from other countries.

"Domestic helpers are far more vulnerable to employer oppression abroad. This is because, apart from living in the employer's home, maids, no matter how 'super,' have skills that are readily replaceable by other foreign workers," he said.

Besides the Philippines, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka are also exporting domestic helpers.

Herrera said the TUCP had never been supportive of the deployment of more domestic helpers overseas, saying it would "definitely be better" for the country to be exporting nurses and seamen instead.

The government should, as a matter of policy, discourage the overseas deployment of unskilled laborers, in favor of highly skilled ones, he said.

Chinese want RP nurses for teachers

By Alcuin Papa

CHINA IS INTERESTED IN HIRING around 500 Filipino nurses to teach there, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) said Friday.

CHEd Chair Carlito Puno said the Philippines would be sending the first batch of what would eventually be 1,000 nursing students to China next year to share their knowledge in nursing care and hospital work with their Chinese counterparts.

Puno recently visited China where he met with 41 education ministers from all over the world to discuss trends and improvements in cross-border education.

"This (student exchange) is part of a cross-border education program between our country and the education ministry of China that would be formalized soon between the two governments," Puno said.

He said two big nursing schools in China had expressed interest in hiring Filipino nurses to teach there.

"I can't disclose yet the names of these schools pending the signing of an agreement between our government through CHEd and the China government through its education ministry," Puno said.

He said China had "high regard" for Filipino nurses.

"China admitted the quality of their nursing education was not good compared to other countries such as the Philippines. China's nursing graduates could barely pass their national licensure examination," he said.

Puno said those who would be sent to China on one-year tours of duty were senior nursing students from two prestigious Philippine schools.

"These nursing students will spend their last year of practicum in different hospitals in China. That's the initial agreement that still has to be signed by both governments. CHEd is considering two top schools where the fourth-year nursing students will be sent to China," he said.

Puno also expressed confidence the nursing profession in the country would continue to produce qualified and competent nurses.

Drilon faction seeks TRO

NAGA CITY—CALLING their faction the "genuine" Liberal Party, the group of Sen. Franklin Drilon Friday asked the Supreme Court to block the Commission on Election's order to hold a party election on Nov. 13.

Rep. Nereus Acosta, the LP-Drilon faction secretary general, told the INQUIRER the group filed a petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) after a meeting Friday.

Acosta assailed the recent Comelec decision that invalidated the party election initiated by the LP faction of Mayor Lito Atienza and ordered that a party election be held.

"We were upheld as the legitimate party but it is not for the Comelec to tell us matters institutional to the party like the holding of an election," Acosta said.

The lawmaker said the Drilon group would not participate in the Comelec-ordered party election because they "would be walking into a trap." *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Office of the Secretary

Message

Greetings to the organizers and participants of the Convergence of Medical and Dental Tourism Service Providers 2006.

I commend the ePlug Business Solutions for their relentless effort in promoting medical tourism and strengthening the relations between suppliers and consumers.

The Department of Health recognizes your contribution in health as you continue your stride towards achieving your goals and aspirations.

Mat this occasion serve to further improve the standards of the fledging medical tourism industry in order to be effective and globally competitive

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

November 3 - 5, 2006
MegaTrade Hall 2
5th Level, Bldg B, SM Megamall

2006 CONVERGENCE
Medical and Dental Tourism
SERVICE PROVIDERS

A Showcase of the Country's Prime MedTourism Service Providers

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT:
Medical & Dental Consultations • Diagnostic Test Patients' On-Line Record • Free Lectures & Seminars • Product Demostrations • Opportunity To Earn From Medical and Dental Tourism OFW/Balikbayan Affiliations • Government Support Services • Discounts On Travel & Tour Packages Freebies & Souvenirs

EXHIBITORS:
Medical Clinics and Hospitals • Dental Clinics Aesthetics & Cosmetic Surgery Clinics Travel Agencies • Facial & Skin/Body Care Center Pharmaceuticals • Golf Clubs • Resorts Vacation Clubs • Fitness Centers • Spa & Massage Centers • Philippine Made Products • Dining & Entertainment Centers • Health & Travel Journals Travel Insurance • Travel Bags & Accessories

Activities and Seminars
November 3, 2006 Day1 (Friday)
2:00 - 3:00 pm Opening Ceremony
3:00 - 4:00 pm A Call for Unity to Strenghten our Medical and Dental Tourism Program
4:30 - 6:00 pm Panoramic Dental X-ray: Reveals your Unique Identification
6:30 - 8:00 pm Business Opportunity for OFW and Seafarers
November 4, 2006 Day 2 (Saturday)
11:00 - 12:30 pm Health Camps: The New Place to Discover
1:00 - 2:30 pm DENSIS: The Web Based Dental Information System
3:00 - 4:00 pm Pinoy Healthcare Privilege Card: Your UltimateTravel And Health Card
4:30 - 6:00 pm Archiving: Go Digital
6:30 - 8:00 pm Obesity: An Illnes to Fight
November 5, 2006 Day 3 (Sunday)
11:00 - 12:30 pm Healthy Foods To Go
1:00 - 2:30 pm GENSIS: The Web Based Hospital Information System
3:00 - 4:00 pm Web Based (Internet) Medical and Dental Records: A Must for the OFW and Seafarers
4;30 - 6:00 pm Health and Wellness Hostel: Haven for Retirement
6:30 - 8:00 pm Affiliation: Lates Business To Explore

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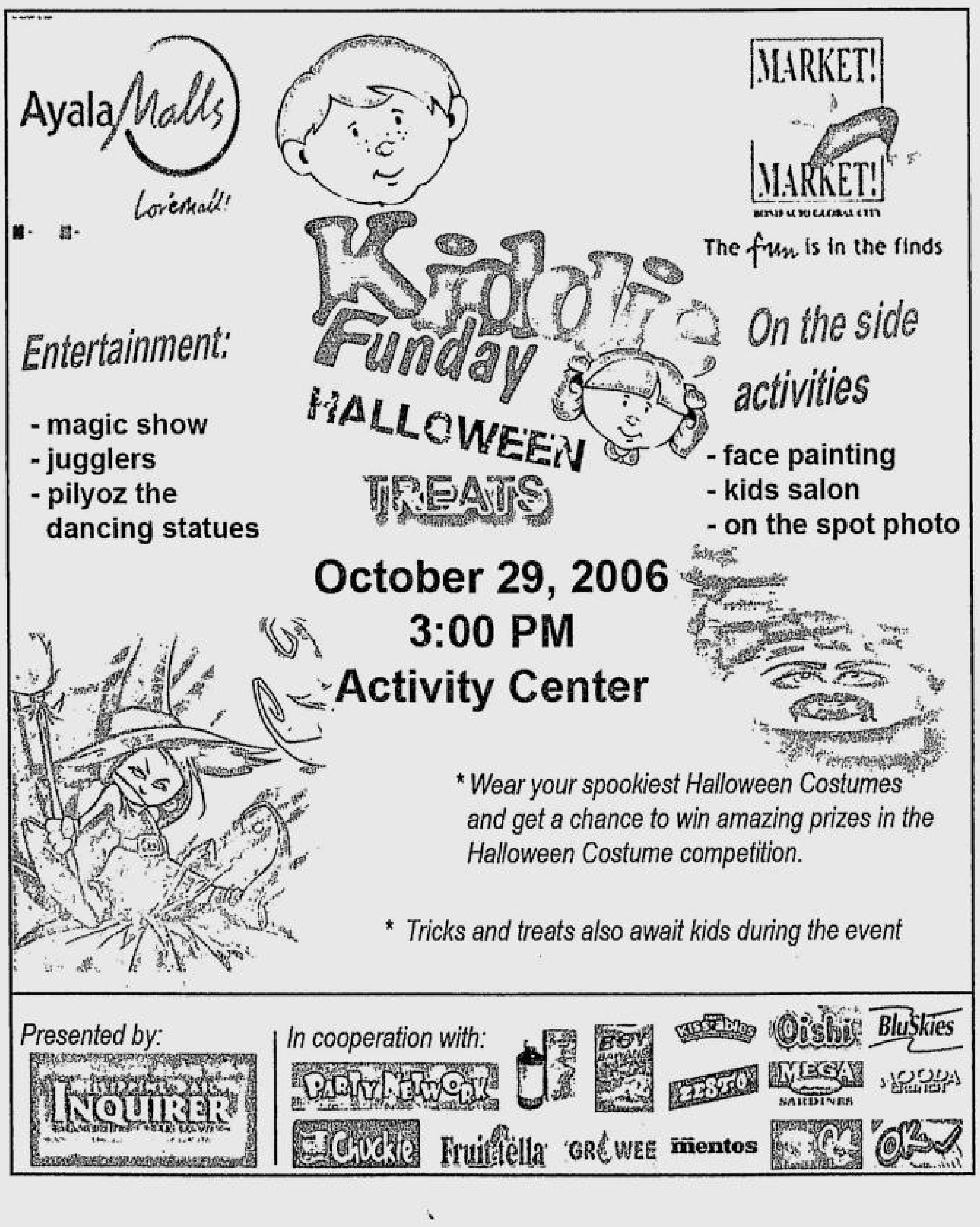
- Medical/Dental Clinic Information System
- Radiology Reading, Ultrasound Reading
- Dental X-ray Reading, ECG Reading, etc.

On-line Medtourism Shopping
- Online affiliate business place for all Medical and Dental Tourism Service Providers

Pinoy Healthcare Privilege Card
- A comprehensive annual health card that include chest x-ray urinalysis, fecalysis, CBC blood typing platelet count dental panoramic x-ray prophylaxis wherein patient's record is accessible on the internet 24/7 including picture of x-rays.

Health and Wellness Hostel
- A residential condominium that provides health and wellness to all occupants for retirees, terminally ill, bedridden and disable patients.


Ayala Malls
Love mall!

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds

Kiddie Funday
HALLOWEEN TREATS

Entertainment:
- magic show
- jugglers
- pilyoz the dancing statues

On the side activities
- face painting
- kids salon
- on the spot photo

October 29, 2006
3:00 PM
Activity Center

* Wear your spookiest Halloween Costumes and get a chance to win amazing prizes in the Halloween Costume competition.

* Tricks and treats also await kids during the event

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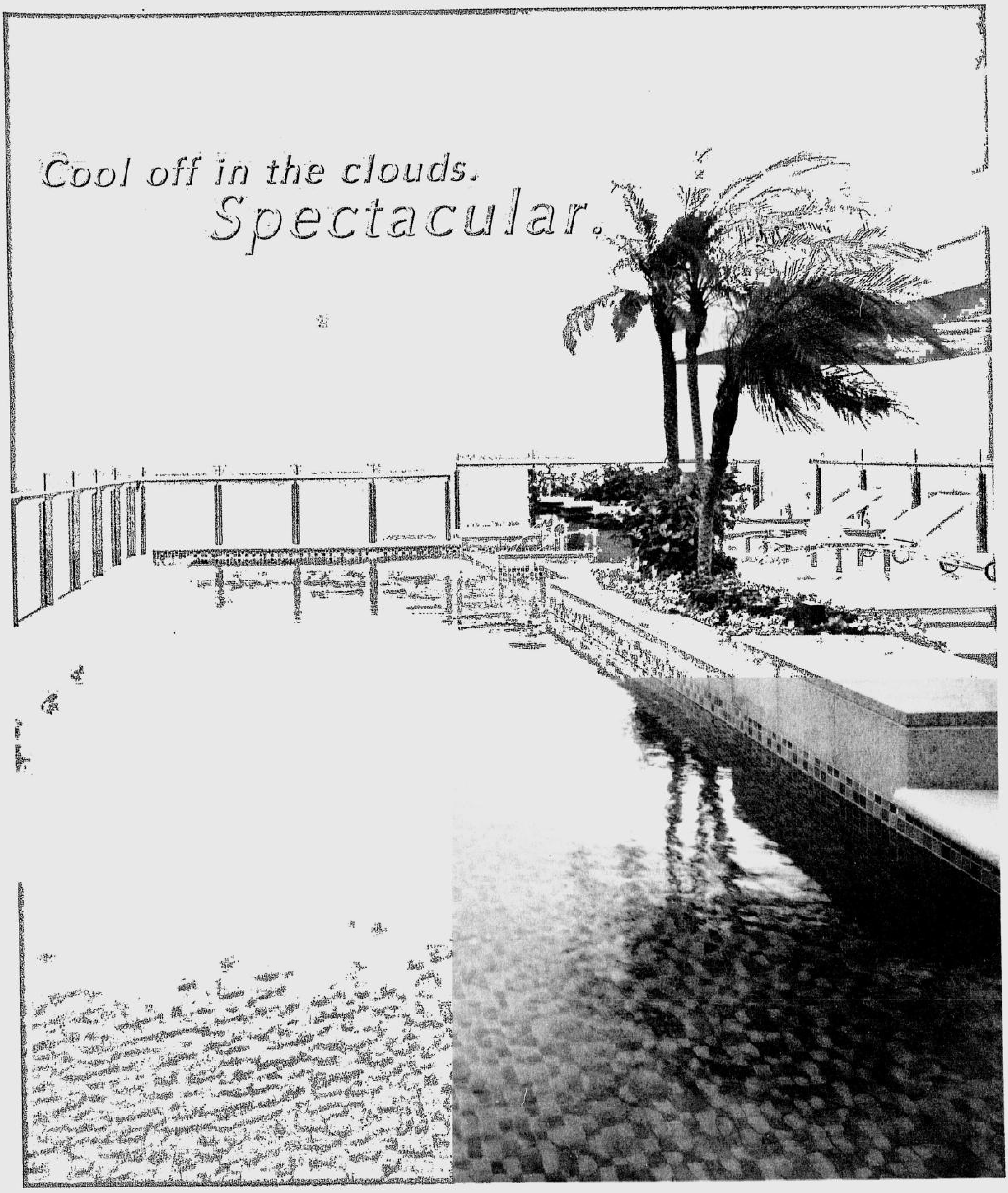

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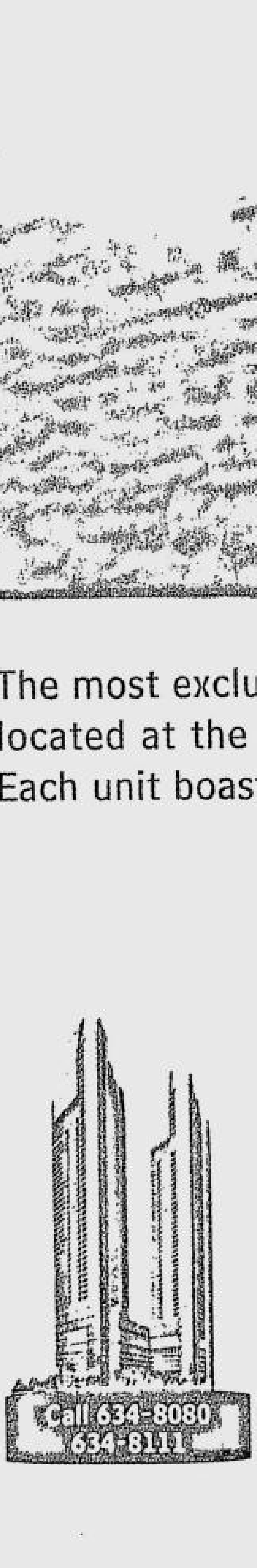

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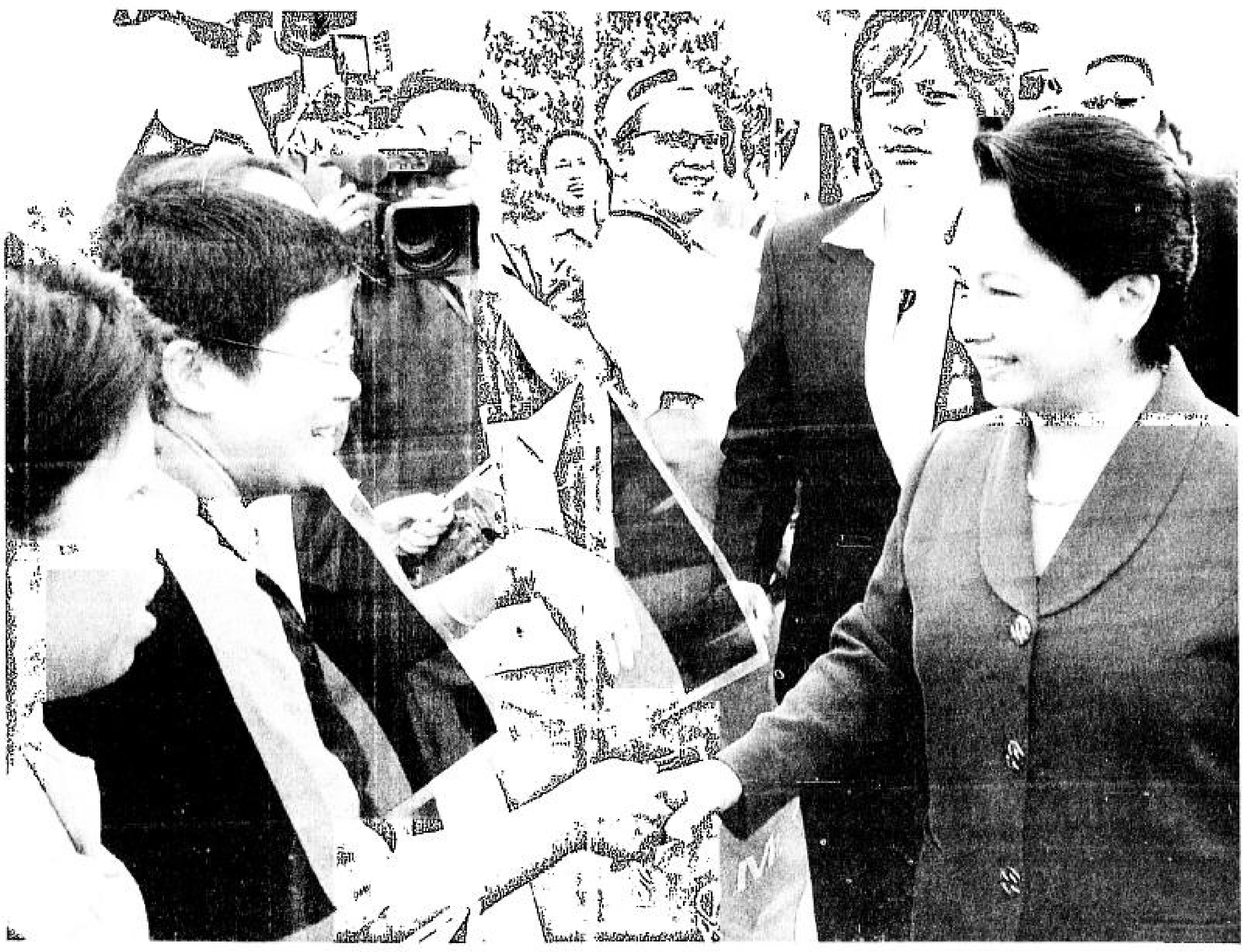
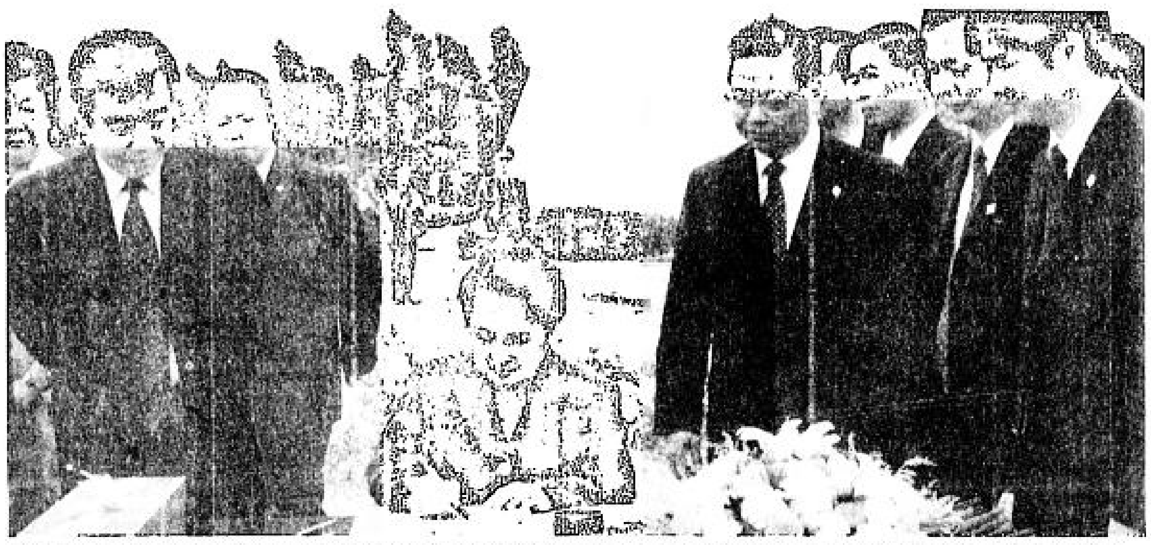
MALLING: President Arroyo tours the SM mall in Jinjiang City escorted by Hans Sy, the son of Filipino mall czar Henry Sy. Occupying an area of 170,000 square meters, it is SM's second mall in China. The first SM at Crossword West in Xiamen opened in 2003. The Sys hope to build one mall a year in China.



COMPATRIOTS AT THE SHRINE: President Arroyo greets Filipinos at Rizal Park in Jinjiang City, Fujian. The park is a must-see among Pinoys, 80 percent of whom, like Rizal trace their roots to Fujian province.

PCPO-MALACAÑANG PHOTOS

GMA lays wreath at Rizal Shrine in Jinjiang



CHINA'S GIFT TO THE PHILIPPINES: President Arroyo signs the guestbook at Rizal Park surrounded by officials of Jinjiang City. The monument was built at a cost of P62 million with counterpart funding raised by Chinese-Filipino tycoons led by Lucio Tan.

PCPO-MALACAÑANG PHOTO

By Christine O. Avendaño

JINJIANG, CHINA (VIA PLDT/Smart)—An exact replica of the monument to the Philippines' national hero Jose Rizal at Luneta Park can be found in the heart of this southern Chinese city, standing proudly in mute testimony to the morals and values Rizal had hoped to impart to his fellow Filipinos.

It also stands as a reminder of his great, great grandfather, Domingo Lamco of Zhang-Guo province, who was once a resident and citizen of China.

On the second day of her official visit to China, President Macapagal-Arroyo led wreath-laying rites at the Rizal Shrine here to pay respect to Rizal, his grandfather Lamco and the Chinese people.

The President was accompanied by some members of her Cabinet, including Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, along with some members of Congress and local officials.

On Jan.. 23, 2003, House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. led a 60-member Philippine delegation in wreath-laying ceremonies during the inauguration of the Rizal Shrine in Siongque village, Jinjiang City in Fujian province.

The Philippine delegation included Consul General Corazon Bahjin, Rep. Roque Ablan, National Historical Institute chair Ambeth Ocampo, officers of the Knights of Rizal, Tarlac-based descendants of Rizal's sister Soledad, and Chinese-Filipino businessmen.

Chinese officials who graced the occasion included Jinjiang City Mayor and Party Secretary Gong Qingkai, and chair of the Jinjiang City People's Congress Xue Zuliang.

The shrine was built in 2002 to commemorate Dr. Rizal's Chinese roots. It symbolizes the strong bond between the Philippines and China. During its inauguration, De Venecia remarked that the shrine "is a great symbol of the 1,000-year-old friendship between our two nations."

The national hero was the direct descendant of Chinese trader Cua Yi Lam who immigrated from Siongque ("Zhang-Guo" in Mandarin) to the Philippines in the latter part of the 17th century. Church records showed that Cua Yi Lam was baptized Domingo Lamco in Manila in 1697 at the age of 35 and listed his birthplace as Siongque village in China.

The monument, made of the world-famous Jinjiang granite, stands 18.61 meters high, which is taller than the 12-meter Rizal Monument in Manila. It was built in a five-hectare park named in Rizal's honor, making it the biggest Rizal Shrine outside the Philippines. The park will also be the site of a Rizal museum and library.

The success of the project could be attributed to the combined efforts of the Cua-Chua Family Association from which Rizal drew his Chinese lineage, the KAISA Para sa Kaunlaran headed by Teresita Ang-See which provided research assistance, Philippine Airlines chair Lucio Tan who headed the project committee working group, the Tulay Foundation, the Knights of Rizal, the Philippine Consulate in Xiamen, the Jinjiang village and the city association based in Manila that arranged funding for the project, the Fujian Provincial Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and the Quanzhou municipal government.

GMA calls for joint Sino-RP exploration . . .

From page A1

security situation in the Asia Pacific region, she averred China was "expected to take the lead in promoting good neighborly relations and regional cooperation."

"(This could be done) by handling sensitive issues with surrounding countries in a manner that is guided by the spirit of equality, respect, consultation and mutual benefit," the President said.

"We are hopeful that China will continue to pursue its foreign policy based on the maintenance of world peace and the promotion of common development," she said.

To join bidding for Transco

In Jinjiang City, officials of China's state grid Xiamen Electric said they would join the bidding for the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), which owns and operates the power transmission facilities in the Philippines and is said to be the crown jewel among the country's state corporations, scheduled this December.

Officials of Xiamen Electric relayed their interest in Transco when they met with President Arroyo on Friday.

The President had been pitching for increased Chinese investments in the Philippines since arriving in China the other day for a visit to certain provinces and to attend the Asean-China commemorative summit.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Ms Arroyo's meeting with officials of Xiamen Electric was one of several productive meetings she had in her bid for increased Chinese investments in the Philippines .

"They're one of several bidders who're interested in buying Transco and the meeting was, actually they were selling themselves," Bunye told reporters.

Bunye said the government was impressed with the record of Xiamen Electric after they were informed that the Chinese power firm supplied electricity to about 88 percent of China's total land area.

Xiamen Electric registered a net income of $89 million last year.

Mining firm

"I guess from the point of view of resources, they would be a very suitable candidate but then again, this would have to be a subject of bidding," Bunye said.

Another potential Chinese investor is the Jinchuan Group, one of the biggest mining firms in China.

Officials of Jinchuan told President Arroyo in Xiamen the other day that they were interested in investing in the Nonoc nickel mines in Surigao City.

The other day, the government signed with Philnico Industrial Corp. and the Jinchuan Group, Baosteel Group Corp and the China Development Bank a memorandum of understanding that would pave the way for the development and exploration of the Nonoc nickel mines.

Bunye said the Jinchuan group had sought and gotten assistance from the President in terms of being registered as a Philippine Export Zone Authority (Peza) company and getting the support of local executives of Surigao.

Biggest single investment

He said the President assured the Jinchuan officials of the cooperation of local executives "because it is in the interest of Surigao to be able to invite these substantial investments which the President described as the biggest single investment of China."

While in Jinjiang, President Arroyo visited SM Jinjiang, one of two SM malls that were put up by Chinese-Filipino taipan Henry Sy in China.

Ms Arroyo and her delegation dropped by SM after she led a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rizal Shrine. A group of children lined up to greet her and her entourage while a band played the Philippine national anthem.

The President then headed to the nearby SM mall with its structure and architectural design no different from that in the Philippines. As one enters the mall, the SM signature song was heard being played in Chinese.

President Arroyo on Friday was supposed to visit the other SM mall in China, located in Xiamen City, but her visit was cancelled for security reasons, according to Presidential Security Group head Col. Romeo Prestoza.

Arms for Farms deal turns rebels into farmers, fishermen

From page A1

guns and bring out their bolos instead," Loong told Ms Arroyo.

In the televised program, the President interviewed two former MNLF rebels who told her that they got their current jobs as tillers of government land when tractors operated by Loong passed by their areas and sought them out.

By planting and eventually selling cassava, palay and corn, Asak Mahalail told the President that he was able to send four of his six children to school.

No turning back

Raham Uyong, on the other hand, said he was initially surprised to find out that under the program, he would get 100 percent of the harvest from his land.

Uyong told the President that he had 2 hectares of land that had not been planted or tilled for the past 13 years, but now he had his first harvest.

"Hindi na ako babalik sa dating gulo dahil iyong mga anak ko naka-school *na* (I will not go back to the old struggle because my children are now in school)," he told Ms Arroyo.

Loong told reporters that he started the program in late 200 and intended to have some 20,000 hectares of land cleared and planted to crops by 2007.

Bank loan

He said he sought a loan from the Land Bank of the Philippine to purchase tractors, farming equipment and planting material to be distributed to MNLF members who want to go into farming.

He also used 20 percent of hi province's development funds.

Asked whether members of the Abu Sayyaf were benefiting from the program, he said they wer but they were mostly famil members.

"One of the objectives is to diminish the numbers of the Abu Sayyaf," Loong said.

Asked why the program di not allow the outright confiscation of arms from former rebels he admitted this was difficult to do.

Loong said they could only discourage former rebels from carrying arms and urge them to focu on farming.

US elections are filthy, as in germs, parasites

From page A1

glad-handing and flesh-pressing.

"You can't always get to a sink to wash your hands," said Anne Ryun, wife of Rep. Jim Ryun (Rep., Kansas).

Hands would be the untidy appendages that transmit infectious disease.

Dollops for veep

Like so many other people involved in politics these days, Anne Ryun has become obsessive about using hand sanitizer and ensuring that others do, too. She squirted Purell, the antiseptic goop of choice on the stump and self-proclaimed killer of "99.99 percent of most common germs that may cause illness," on people lined up to meet Vice President Dick Cheney this month at a fundraiser in Topeka.

When Cheney was done meeting and greeting, he, too, rubbed his hands vigorously with the stuff, dispensed in dollops by an aide when the vice president was out of public view.

That has become routine in this peak season of handshaking, practiced by everyone from the most powerful leaders to the lowliest hopefuls. It would be difficult to find an entourage that does not have at least one aide packing Purell.

Which some people find unseemly in itself.

"It's condescending to the voters," said Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, a Democrat.

A fervent nonuser of hand sanitizer, Richardson holds the Guinness Book of World Records mark for shaking the most hands over an eight-hour period (13,392, at the New Mexico State Fair in 2002).

Still, politics can be an especially dirty place to exist.

"Every time you're with big groups of people, you're going to be exposed to rhinoviruses, adenoviruses and the viruses that cause gastroenteritis," said Sen. Tom Coburn, (R-Oklahoma), a physician.

Doctor's immunity

Coburn said he washed his hands whenever possible, but did not use any antigerm lotions. Being a doctor, he said, he has been exposed to more bugs and, thus, enjoys greater immunity than most other people.

Purell, which is made by GOJO Industries of Akron, Ohio, came on the market as a consumer product in 1997 and became popular in campaign vans, holding rooms and traveling bags in the 2000 campaign.

That year, Al Gore turned his running mate, Joseph I. Lieberman, on to sanitizer.

Richardson said that if he ran for president, as he is considering, he had no intention of conforming to the norms of his antiseptic peers.

"I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty," he said. *New York Times*

Cops, NBI tracking groups suspected of faking coins

By Tina G. Santos and Alcuin Papa

POLICE AND NAtional Bureau of Investigation agents are hunting the members of two syndicates, including foreign nationals, believed to be behind the manufacture and distribution of up to P140 million in counterfeit coins.

This after the NBI busted a counterfeiting operation in Barangay Dalandanan,Valenzuela City, last week, seizing P5 million worth of fake P5 and P10 coins. Arrested was its alleged operator, a Taiwanese identified as Yung Sung Liu, alias Asyong Lao and Chih-Chah Liu.

Yung's operations were capable of making P5 million in fake P5 and P10 coins a week, said Roland Argabioso, head agent of the NBI's Field Operations Division.

"His operation started as early as April so it is possible the group had already produced some P140 million worth of counterfeit coins," he said. Also seized during the raid were an air compressor, a coin counter, a scan coin counter, a set of P5-coin electrotype plates, a dye cleaner, a pressing and stamping machine, and a packaging and polishing machine.

On Wednesday, operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested six persons in Quezon City, including one Wong Qing Qian of Fujian, China, for reportedly circulating the fake money. They recovered 2,800 counterfeit P5 coins.

CIDG chief Director Jesus Versoza said the operation of the six might "involve a bigger, wider and syndicated dimension with international connections."

Another related raid on a suspected Malabon hideout, however, yielded negative results.

"We have been studying this group for a long time. We are finding it difficult to track them down because this syndicate operates in a compartmentalized fashion. One group within the syndicate is responsible for producing the fake coins while another group distributes the coins," said CIDG operative PO2 Alan Asidilla.

Meanwhile, CIDG team leader Senior Insp. Pedro Velasco gave these tips on how to detect the fake P5 coins: Look at the eye on the portrait of first Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo. He said in the fake coins, the portrait of Aguinaldo had no eye. The coins also had different letterings, the texture of the fake coins was rougher and they were lighter in weight.

DTI removes surcharges on credit cards

ATTENTION CREDIT CARD HOLDERS: IT IS NOW illegal for shop owners to place a surcharge on goods and services purchased with a credit card.

Beginning Nov. 5, retailers caught imposing the extra charges could face up to six months imprisonment, Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago said on Friday.

The lawmaker issued the warning after the Department of Trade and Industry finally issued on Oct.18 Administrative Order No. 10 banning credit card surcharges.

The order categorically prohibits the use of two price tags—one indicating a "cash price" and another designating a "card price"—for the same products or services.

"We definitely welcome the DTI order, which comes in time for the Christmas shopping season," said Santiago, who first sought a ban on the additional charges two years ago.

"The imposition of an extra charge of five to 10 percent on consumers paying by way of credit cards is just plain extortion," Santiago said. The surcharges, he added, were "totally oppressive, discriminatory and unethical."

Nearly five million Filipinos now carry credit cards, according to the Credit Card Association of the Philippines.

Santiago said the administrative order gives more meaning to the Consumer Act, or Republic Act No. 7394.

Merchants found violating the order face one to six months in prison, or a fine of up to P5,000. A second conviction would result in the revocation of the shop's business license.

Angel Pelayo, DTI assistant secretary, said it was the policy of the state to protect the interest of consumers, promote their general welfare and establish standards of conduct for business and industry. *Michael Lim Ubac*

Peewee: Acting mayor can't fire city employees

SUSPENDED PASAY CITY MAYOR WENCESlao "Peewee" Trinidad yesterday scored acting Mayor Allan Panaligan for terminating some 700 city hall employees.

"This is a purge of Nazi proportions. He is only a caretaker in the city. The law does not allow him to appoint new employees," Trinidad told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

He said the contractual, casual and executive assistants he had hired were civil service eligibles and were experienced.

They were assigned to various offices like the regional trial courts, the fiscal's office, and the traffic and health offices, he said.

"They were doing technical jobs that require skills. What will happen if they will be hiring new unexperienced [people]?" he said.

He said co-terminus employees could be only terminated after his term, which, he stressed, had not ended.

Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto and 11 city councilors were suspended for six months by the Department of the Interior and Local Government for allegedly entering into anomalous garbage collection and disposal contracts in 2004 and 2005.

"Truly this is abuse of power [for an] acting mayor," he said.

Several of the employees had come to him for help, he said.

A class suit charging the acting officials with illegal termination and abuse of authority was being prepared by the employees.

"I told them they should go ahead and use the proper forum," Trinidad said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Panaligan several times but he would not answer any of the phone calls. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

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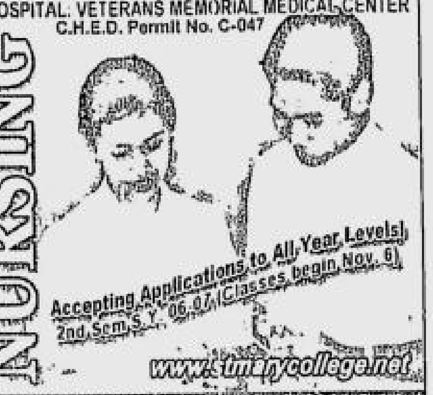

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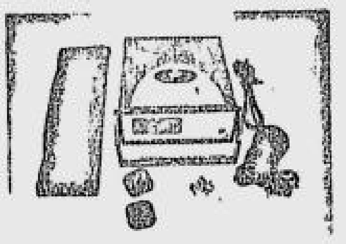

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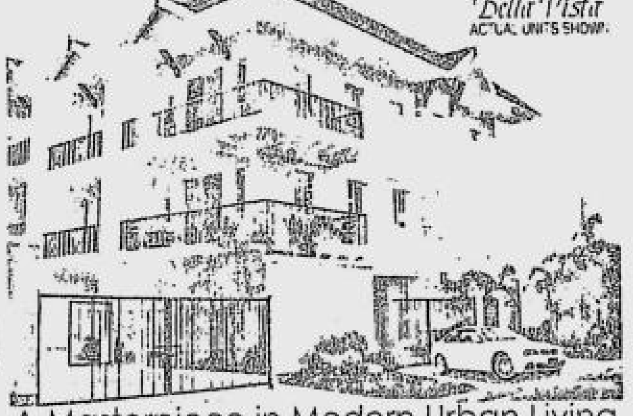

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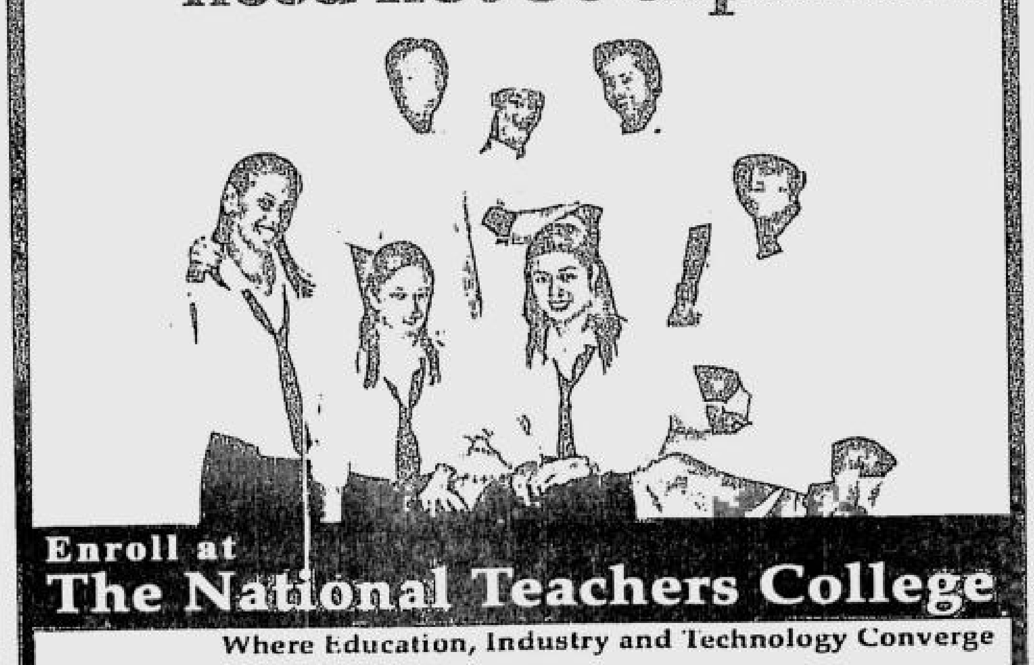

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For Filipino conquerors of Mt. Everest, adulation good 'but we need cash'

By Fe B. Zamora

COMPARED TO RAISING FUNDS for next year's expedition on Mt. Everest, climbing the world's tallest peak last May was a walk in the park, First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) leader Art Valdez said yesterday.

"Climbing Mt. Everest excites, thrills and fascinates our people but they will not part with their money to finance a venture like this," Valdez said in an interview.

"We have been feted as heroes, with red carpets and motorcades. But after the photo ops, *wala na*(that's it)," he said.

Just six months ago, Heracleo Oracion thrilled the country when he became the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, at over 8,000 meters the world's highest peak.

The following day, May 18, Erwin "Pastor" Emata and and Romi Garduce also made it to the top one after the other.

Achievers

Valdez, the three summiteers and the other members of the 16-man Philippine climbing expedition were among the achievers cited by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) at the Batasang Pambansa in July.

For their attendance at the Sona, Valdez said Malacañang sent the team two cakes.

"We ate the cakes heartily," Valdez, a former transportation and communications undersecretary, said.

For the climbing season next year, Oracion and Emata will lead the "unity climb" on Mt. Everest, with one team climbing from Nepal and the other from Tibet.

Women climbers Karina Dayondon, Noelle Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino will be joining the team. One of them could be the first Filipino woman to reach the summit, Valdez said.

First woman

Valdez said Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia also were readying expeditions to put the first woman from an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) country on top of the mountain next year.

Valdez said the 16-member expedition would need at least P15 million, an amount the team has been trying to raise the past months.

He said the team had sponsors for their plane tickets, insurance, climbing gear and equipment but what they needed was cash.

He said the money would go to pay for climbing permits, Sherpa guide fees and upkeep during their two-month stay in Nepal and Tibet for acclimatization, as well as the actual climb in May.

He said climbing permits alone could cost as much as $30,000 per climber, while guide fees are $3,000 per Sherpa, with bonuses if they reach the summit.

"We all have our own Mt. Everest. This is our financial Everest," Valdez said.

He said the team will not give up for lack of funds. "We will not go around with begging bowls, but we will find ways."

"This is another Everest that we will overcome," he added.

The team has been selling souvenir items like T-shirts, mugs and cups on its website http://www.philippine-everest.com.

Negotiations are also afoot for them to pre-sell advertising spots with the mountaineers' photos or video from specific sites on Everest.

Before the year ends, the team might also auction off—at a premium—some of the cherished items they used in their historic climb on Mt. Everest from March to May this year.

Tried and tested

He said each item had been "tried and tested" on Everest.

"Our tents have seen the worst," he said. Besides, the items, like ice axes, harnesses, jackets, compasses, caps, thermal suits and sleeping bags, also had sentimental value.

"Mountain-climbing is a very risky adventure. The possibility of not coming back is always there, that's why we cry when we get back," he said.

The FPMEE's successful climb in May proved that Filipinos can do it, if they observe "unity and teamwork," Valdez said.

B. Cappleman, Ifugao gov; 62

BAGUIO CITY—IFUGAO GOV. BENJAMIN Cappleman succumbed to lung cancer on Thursday. He was 62.

Cappleman died at home in Banaue, according to Vency Bulayungan, provincial director of the Philippine Information Agency.

Faith Cappleman, his daughter, said the governor had been confined at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City as soon as his doctors detected the disease.

"But he contracted pneumonia so he asked to be brought home to Banaue [a few days ago]. I think he knew he was dying," she told the INQUIRER.

Cappleman will be buried beside his wife in Banaue on Nov. 5.

A former public school teacher, Cappleman entered politics in 1980 when he was elected mayor of Banaue. He became Ifugao governor in 1988 and later representative in 1992. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Sunday, October 29, 2006
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Return from exile

For Yahweh says this: Shout with joy for Jacob;
rejoice for the greatest of nations.
Proclaim your praise and say:
"Yahweh has saved his people,
the remnant of Israel!"

Look, I will bring them back from the land of the north, gather them from the ends of the earth, the lame and the blind, mothers and women in labor—a great throng will return.

They went away weeping,
they will return in joy.
I will lead them by the streams of water, on a level path so that no one will stumble,
for I am Israel's father
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

A priest forever

Every High Priest is taken from among mortals and appointed to be their representative before God to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin. He is able to understand the ignorant and erring for he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he is bound to offer sacrifices for his sins as well as for the sins of the people. Besides, one does not presume to take this dignity, but takes it only when called by God, as Aaron was.

Nor did Christ become High Priest in taking upon himself this dignity, but it was given to him by the One who says: You are my son, I have begotten you today. And in another place: You are a priest forever in the priestly order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar, Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth passing by, he began to call out, "Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me!" Many people scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man saying, "Take heart. Get up, he is calling you." He immediately threw aside his cloak, jumped up and went to Jesus.

Then Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said, "Master, let me see again!" And Jesus said to him, "Go your way, your faith has made you well." And immediately he could see, and he followed Jesus along the road.

Commentary

We are called to rejoice and shout out the praise of God for all nations to hear, even though we are a remnant of God's people returning home. And we are a motley crew: lame, blind, mothers, women in labor, weeping, coming from everywhere, led to waters of life. Our God and priest is from among us, knowing weakness with us, bound to us and offering sacrifices with us and for us as beloved children of Our Father/God. Are we careful of those among us that are blind, yet hearing the Word, seeking Jesus? Or are we like the disciples seeking to keep others quiet, keeping Jesus to ourselves? Bartimaeus begins to follow Jesus up the road, the way of the Cross—have we begun that journey or are we still busy keeping others away from Jesus, or still caught begging?

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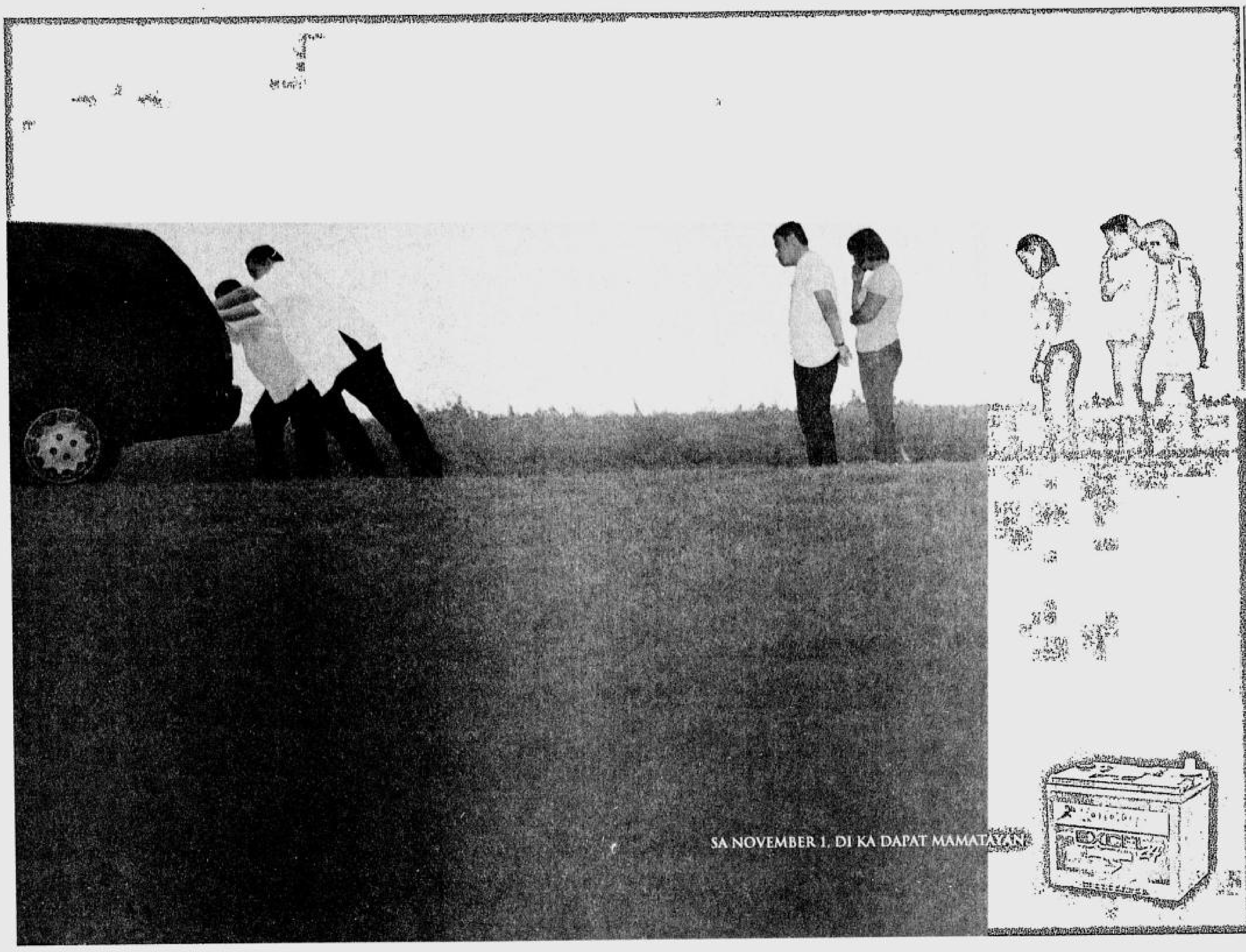
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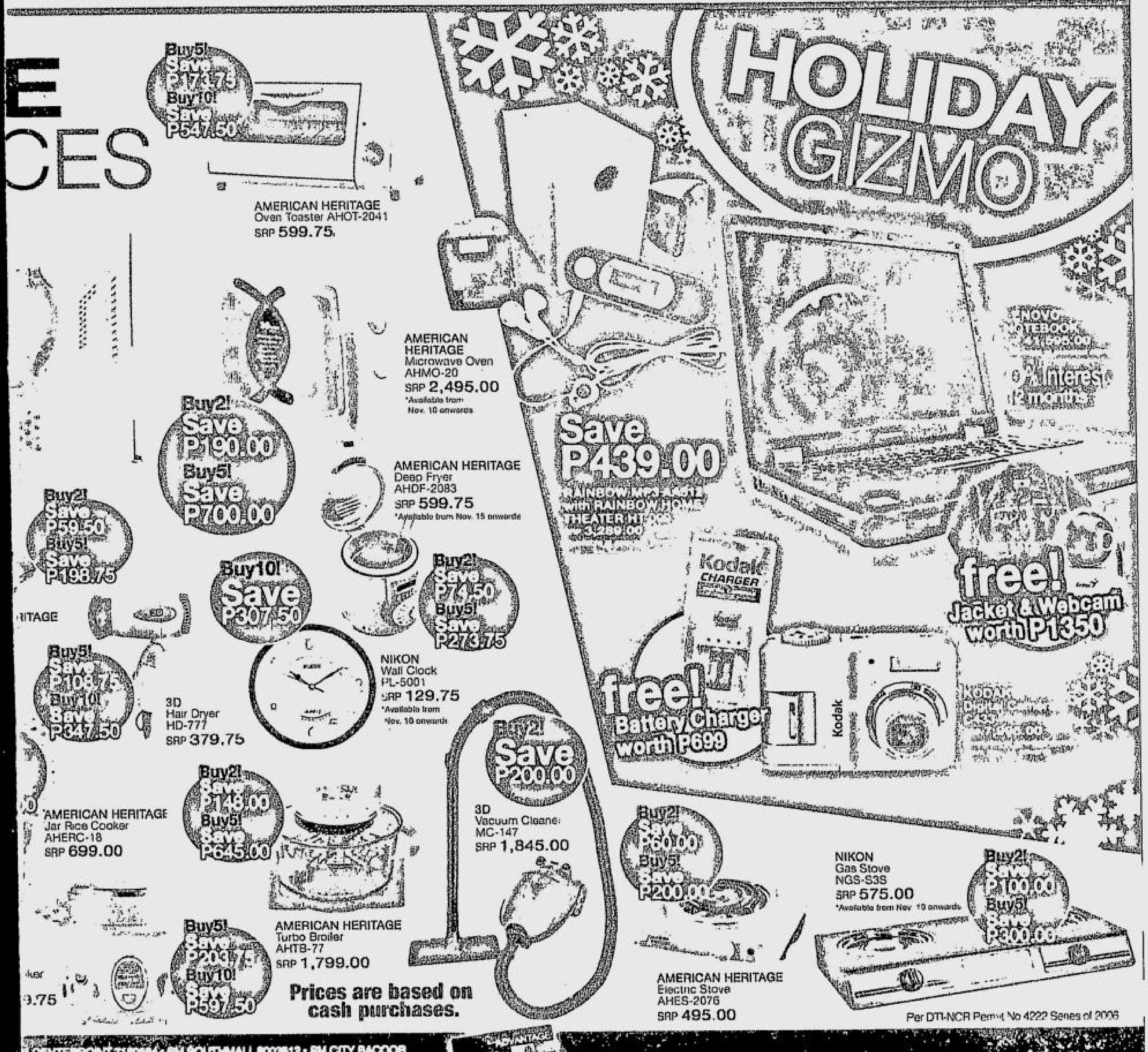
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OPINION

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Unfair exchange

EDITORIAL

THE IRONY OF THE SITUATION COULD NOT HAVE been lost on anyone except those who refuse to see it. In exchange for providing life-saving professionals, like doctors and nurses, the Philippines would be getting death-dealing substances from Japan. By no measure can it be said to be a fair exchange, but that is likely to happen once the two countries implement the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

The agreement, an "all-trade pact" covering all products and services produced in both countries, was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on Sept. 9 this year. Touted as a major step toward economic integration, JPEPA lists down 11,300 items or "tariff lines" that can be exchanged between the two countries. Among these items, exactly 141 have been identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as "environmentally sensitive products deemed potentially hazardous to health and the environment if not handled properly." Included in the list of "potentially hazardous" items to be traded are ash and residue containing arsenic, mercury or thallium, ash from the incineration of municipal waste, clinical waste, (like used surgical gloves, adhesive dressing and gauze) and dozens of other poisonous chemicals, pollutants and ozone-depleting substances.

Administration officials, however, say there is no reason for alarm. Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, who headed the Philippine negotiating panel, said JPEPA does not necessarily mean that such hazardous wastes and substances can be brought into the country. The Philippines "would allow only trade in regulated—and not prohibited—waste allowed under Philippine laws," he assured. Environment Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio also said the pact would not violate Philippine laws because toxic wastes and substances that are banned by them cannot be brought into the country. "The objective of the Philippines was to get JPEPA approved," he said, and the environment is not going to be sacrificed "because the pact has no effect on our laws."

Fine. But if there is no intention of circumventing those environmental laws, why did our trade negotiators insist on retaining those contentious items on the list, over the strong objections of the DENR, at least initially? In July last year, then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor wrote the trade secretary that the DENR was "for the exclusion from trading under JPEPA of all wastes and scraps prohibited for trade under the Basel Convention and/or under our national laws." He said the DENR also favored the delisting of prohibited ozone-depleting substances and chemicals. The Basel Convention bans all exports of hazardous waste from industrialized members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD member countries.

Ignacio revealed that the DENR was forced to yield on the issue after it was made to understand that JPEPA was "an all-or-nothing proposition, that if we don't agree on one or two products, there would be no agreement." But if Japan had no intention of invoking the provision allowing the shipment of toxic waste, why would it throw out the whole treaty unless that provision was retained?

Are administration officials saying that somehow they were able to put one over their Japanese counterparts by agreeing to keep a provision that is, for all intents and purposes, a dead letter? Unbelievable, both because the Japanese negotiators could not have been so dumb and because our own officials could not have been so transparently duplicitous.

More ludicrous is the claim of environmentalists that our people's health is being traded for any opening Japan is willing to give to our health professionals and other workers. Ignacio has said that "one of the most critical items in JPEPA was the trade in services, allowing our overseas workers and our health professionals in Japan—that was very important to the Philippines."

Fortunately for the whole nation, even if the pact has been signed by the President, it isn't a done deal yet. It still has to go to the Senate for ratification, and several senators have promised to go over it very closely. Given the high stakes involved, the Filipino people should keep a close watch on how the senators go about this task.

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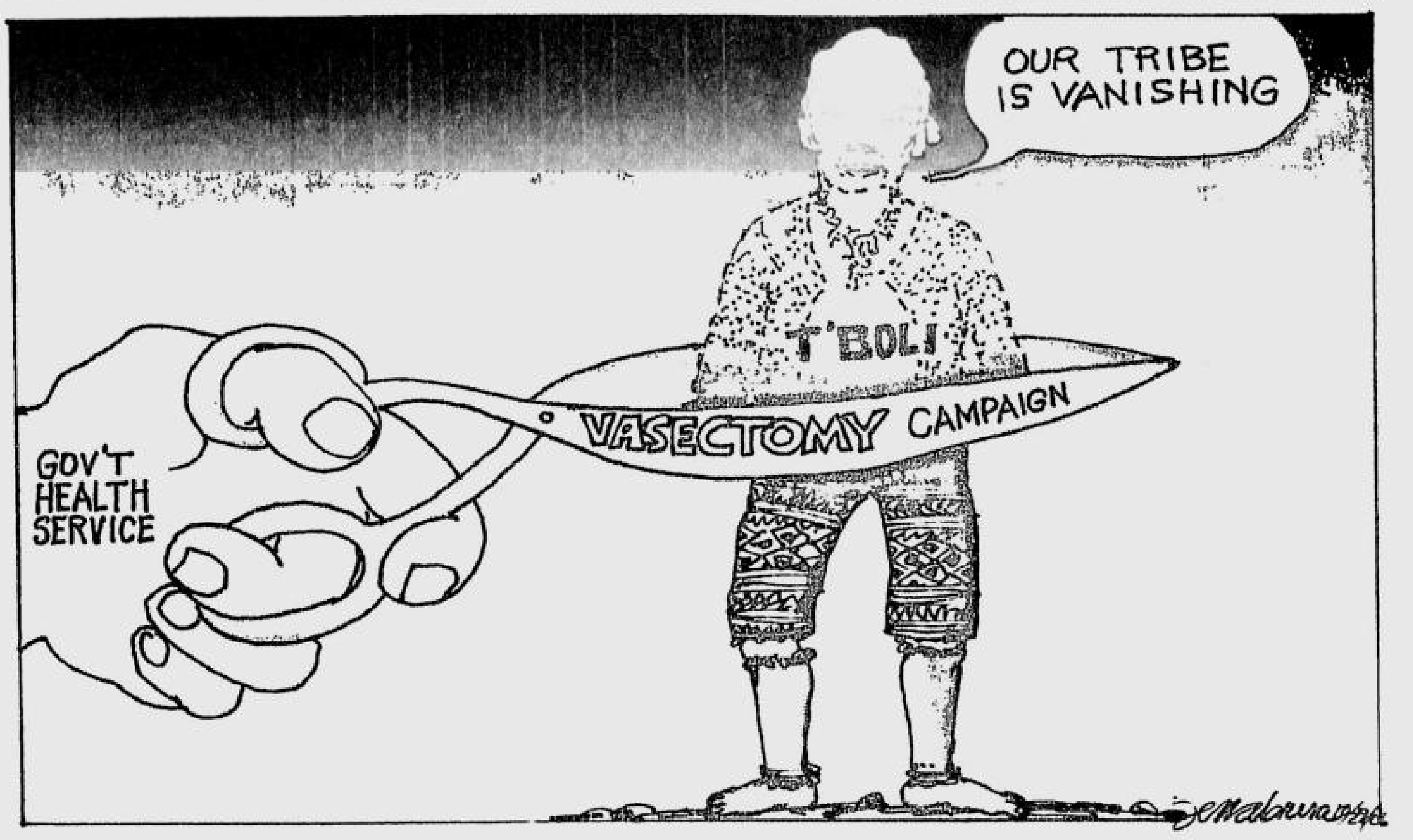

Round 2

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT dismissing the Cha-cha petition was received with much elation by the people who were seriously worried that the determined campaign of the administration would persuade the majority of the justices to sustain it.

Up to the very morning the verdict was announced last Wednesday, Speaker Jose de Venecia had published a full-page paid advertisement rhapsodizing about the benefits to the country the parliamentary system would produce like Hercules cleaning the Augean stables.

He was leaving no stone unturned to insure that the Cha-cha would receive the blessings of the High Tribunal and extend the political survival of President Macapagal-Arroyo—and his, too—as the heads of the new government they would establish by mangling the present Constitution.

One can only imagine the individual appeals the Speaker must have made to turn the tide in favor of the petitioners, together with the more imperative arguments raised publicly, and presumably also privately, by Ms Gloria. Add to these the illimitable resources of the government at their beck and call, and you have a juggernaut too formidable to resist.

The two leaders were pulling out all the stops to guarantee the success of the Cha-cha as if their political future depended on it. As in fact it did. Their followers confidently expected that Ms Arroyo would continue as President and Speaker De Venecia would become the prime minister under the new government to be created by a mere "amendment" of the 1987 Charter.

The adverse tide was not as massive as they might have feared for the 8-7 vote was razor-thin and could have turned one way or the other. This is what must now be giving them the hope that although the battle for the tattered Cha-cha may have forced them to retreat, it has not yet been finally lost. They are probably mouthing with mock bravado the defeated cliché that they have only begun to fight.

I recall the 1989 case of Marcos v. Manglapus, 177 SCRA 669, that excited the nation with the unprecedented question of whether the dictator and his family could be barred from returning to their country after escaping from the people's wrath during Edsa I. As in the Cha-cha case, the question was decided also by an 8-7 vote, but with the important consequence that it was generally accepted by the people.

Significantly, all the members of the Supreme Court then had been appointed by President Corazon Aquino. Yet she won by only one vote. The decision was never reversed because the opponents did not feel directly and personally involved in the planned return of the despot who no longer commanded their interest and attention. The powerful arguments of the dissenting justices proved to be only rhetorical rather than compulsive.

It is different with the present case because President Arroyo has not been sustained by the Supreme Court, unlike President Aquino who was. GMA is not likely to meekly accept the setback because it will obstruct her schemes to remain in power with her legal immunities intact. Unlike the Marcos decision, which did not directly affect or at least was disinterestedly received by the citizenry, the reversal of the Arroyo agenda is actively resented by its conspirators who foresee the end of their own collateral privileges.

The margin of only 1 vote against the Cha-cha petition is not that difficult to overturn in favor of Ms Arroyo. In the case of Secretary of Justice v. Lantion, 343 SCRA 377, the original 8-6 decision was reconsidered and reversed also by an 8-6 vote. The promoters of the initiative are probably hoping that a motion for reconsideration may still sustain their petition and resuscitate their march to the new regime they will continue to dominate and contaminate.

One important fact not apprehended by many people is that there will be one vacancy in the Supreme Court on Dec. 7 with the compulsory retirement of Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban.

What the Arroyo camp can do is delay the filing of its motion for reconsideration and the resultant submission of the required pleadings of the parties—plus the oral argument that may even be scheduled—until President Arroyo can appoint a new justice only 40 days from today. If that can be arranged and the final vote on the motion for reconsideration is scheduled after the new member shall have been installed, he can then join the present 7-vote minority and make it the winning side.

All this can and will happen, however, only if the present 8 justices against the Cha-cha will stand firm in preventing the otherwise possible strategy of the Arroyo camp to delay and ultimately reverse the original decision in the Cha-cha case. Chief Justice Panganiban, who has voted against the petitioners, should see to it that this clever maneuver is effectively blocked and Round 2 does not happen to TKO the opposition.

As his parting gift before his retirement, Chief Justice Panganiban should lead in preventing such a chicanery against the Filipino people. He should show that a leader, especially of the Supreme Court, has the vision and the courage to lead.

Healed and free

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE TAKING UP NURSING these days. I heard about a husband who took up nursing recently. His children are now proudly telling their playmates that they have a "nursing" father!

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 46-52), we hear about how Bartimeus, who at the beginning of the story "sat by the roadside begging," was cured of his blindness. After he was healed by Jesus, he became a disciple, and "followed Him on the way." Jesus reminds us today that true nursing, true healing is that which enables a disabled or an incapacitated person to move on. If we remain stagnant, if we do not move on, it means we are still blind, we are still imprisoned and we have not been truly healed.

* * *

I have met people who have received the gift of physical healing, but go back to their old bad habits soon after. I have encountered people who have witnessed miracles, and yet do not move on to become better persons. Today, let us ask the Lord to help us see with clarity what He is calling us from; and let us, in obedience follow Him to where and what He is calling us to. May the Lord help us not only to see, but also to move on.

* * *

Today is Prison Awareness Sunday. Have you ever been in prison? Have you ever visited a prison? Aside from the heavy human stench, there is the stench of stagnancy and hopelessness of spirit that one smells in a prison. Let us not pass the prisoners by. Let us give them hope and a helping hand.

* * *

Most of us have our prisons within. Let us ask the Lord to help us see, accept and break out from these inherited or self-made prisons that prevent us from moving on—especially our prisons of fear, greed, lust and insecurities that make us numb or insensitive to the crying world around us, and blind to the vision which God our Father has for us.

* * *

It is the blind who help us see. Fr. John O'Mahony, SVD relates to me how his encounter with Bro. Paul Boi, a 30-year-old SVD seminarian from Papua New Guinea, made him realize and see a lot of things. During Brother Paul's five months' stay in the Philippines for the operation of his eyes, Father John had the privilege of assisting the seminarian who is functionally blind. In the process, Father John learned to be more sensitive to the needs of the disabled, to be more trusting in God's love and to be inspired by the courage and simplicity of Brother Paul. Father John says that we sighted people miss out on a lot of things and are the ones who must say to Jesus: "Lord, help me to see."

* * *

On a personal note, I have been so enriched with every encounter I have with the 13-year-old blind girl Fatima Soriano who joins me in my healing Masses and who gets invited to share her story and songs of suffering and hope. I don't know where she gets her wisdom, but when she speaks or sings, people listen, and listen with their hearts. I have seen people cry, and pray deeply, as they are touched by this frail little girl's simple and innocent sharing. Fatima claims that she "sees" the Blessed Mother, and she says whatever, and only that which the Blessed Mother tells her.

* * *

Have you noticed that our farmers are smiling more this time of the year? Why? It's harvest time, and our mayor in Bani, Pangasinan, Gabriel Navarro tells me that the harvest is good this year. As we go about our own businesses and busy schedules, let us not forget to look around us and be one with our brothers and sisters in their joys and pains. Also, let us not forget to look up and give praise and thanks to our loving Father.

* * *

It's also the time of the year when we remember with gratitude those who have gone ahead of us. As we honor them with our All Souls' Day practices and customs, let us not forget that we honor them best with our prayers and remembrances, and especially by carrying out with firm resolve their wishes and dreams for us. From where they see us, may they smile at us as we pursue the values of truth, goodness and service in this life.

* * *

Let the saints remind us that there is eternal life, and that life on earth has its own reward, now, and in the after-life. When it seems that evil prospers and evildoers go unpunished, we must not lose heart, for surely, God does not sleep. Goodness will triumph in the end. God does not sleep. God knows. God sees.

* * *

In times of trouble, prayer gives us relief by entrusting our worries to the Almighty Father. A lot of people are also suffering; let us pray for them, too. Get daily suggestions of prayer, text ON PRAYER to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

Inviting you all to attend the "Healing the Family Tree and Relationships" seminar that will be conducted by Bethesda Spring of Hope Ministry with Fr. Mario Bije, SVD on Nov. 18, 2006, Saturday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m; a healing Mass will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Bahay Ugnayan, Good Shepherd Compound, 1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City. This is sponsored by the CFM Solo Parents. For details please contact Siony 09173811372; Ching 09279757930; Chit 639178068481; Letty 9135966; Linda 09167603209.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us to really see, and set us free. Amen.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—MANY OF US REMEMBER Oct. 20, 1944 as the date of the Leyte landings, which brought back to the Philippines American forces under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, more than two years after the fall of Bataan and Corregidor. But perhaps very few of us are aware that the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation was at one time not part of the grand strategy of Allied Forces in the Pacific theater of operations. The US Navy, under Admiral Ernest King, was in favor of bypassing the Philippines and leapfrogging further north to Formosa in the drive toward the Japanese mainland. But General MacArthur wanted to redeem the "I shall return" pledge he made when he left Corregidor in May 1942, and he argued for an invasion of the Philippines. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a Hawaii meeting with US military leaders supported this position.

A timetable of Dec. 20 was set for the Leyte invasion. But because of favorable intelligence reports, this date was moved forward by two months—to Oct. 20.

In an earlier column last year, I said that in hindsight, perhaps it might have been more merciful for the Philippines if the US Navy position of bypassing us had prevailed; we might have been spared the deadly and devastating battle for the liberation of Manila, which resulted in the horrible deaths of so many civilians and non-combatants at the hands of Japanese Marines who stayed behind to defend the city. Manila might not have suffered so much physical destruction from both the defenders and the liberating forces.

A few days after the Leyte landing, the Battle of Leyte Gulf was fought—an action considered by many historians as the greatest naval battle of World War II and, by some, as history's greatest naval engagement.

For the Japanese, it was the last chance to turn the tide of war. Since 1942, US strength in the Pacific had been growing after the disaster at Pearl Harbor while the Japanese Navy had not been able to replace its losses. Nearly every time the Japanese Navy came to blows with the US Navy, the former took a severe beating.

The recapture of the Philippines by the Allied forces would be a serious blow for the Japanese. In a move to prevent this situation from taking place, plans were drawn up for a massive fleet action against the Americans. Nothing was held back as there was everything to gain with a victory, and little—if any—possibility for a second chance. The resulting engagement would involve more ships, planes and men than any naval battle ever fought. C.V. Woodward, who wrote the first full account of the battle, said, "Rarely in all naval history has a power staked so much on one operation as the Japanese did at Leyte Gulf and rarely has any power suffered such an overwhelming defeat."

H.P. Willmott, in his book "The Battle of Leyte Gulf: The Last Fleet Action (Twentieth-Century Battles)," points out the following: "The Battle of Leyte Gulf was an extremely unusual battle. It was unusual on five separate counts that are so obvious that they are usually missed. It was unusual in that it was a series of actions, not a single battle. It was unusual as a naval battle in that it was fought over five days; historically, naval battles have seldom spread themselves over more than one or two days. It was unusual in terms of its name. This battle involved a series of related actions subsequently grouped together under the name of just one of these engagements, but in fact none of the actions were fought inside Leyte Gulf .... More importantly, it was unusual in that it was a full-scale fleet action fought after the issue of victory and defeat at sea had been decided, and it was unusual in that it resulted in clear, overwhelming victory and defeat."

The battle consisted of two preliminary strikes against Japanese forces on the way to combat, and three massive engagements once the fleets tangled. Together, these five actions constitute the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

In the end, for the Japanese, the loss of Leyte meant the loss of the Philippines, and it closed the doors to any possible victory for Japan in the war.

* * *

A year ago, I mentioned a book "LSTs: The Ships with the BIG MOUTH" by Homer Haswell (Xlibris, 2005; available at amazon.com). It chronicles his tour of duty as an ensign during World War II on board Landing Ship Tank (LST) 698 where he served as the assistant navigator from 1944 to 1945. Haswell participated in both the Leyte and Lingayen landings.

Historian Samuel Morison, in his 15-volume "History of U.S. Naval Operations in World War II," describes the LSTs as the "handymen of the Navy" and their arrival in 1943 changed the complexion of fighting in the Pacific. The LST became the "backbone of the amphibious forces."

A few days ago, Haswell and his wife Fran marked their 64th wedding anniversary in Evanston, Illinois. He is currently working on another book: this one on his family's genealogy. Haswell traces his roots back to Anthony Haswell, a pioneer of press freedom in America, who was convicted in 1800 of seditious libel against the government and person of the President of the United States (John Adams). A. Haswell was sentenced to three months in jail and fined $200. Thomas Dudley, one of the founders of Harvard University, belongs to another ancestral line Haswell has been able to identify in his research. He goes even further back to his English forebears, among whom are Henry II, King of England and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, all the way to William I the Conqueror.

A short, meaningful term

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HIS "TOUR OF DUTY" AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF the Supreme Court may be one of the shortest ever, less than a year, in fact: appointed to head the high tribunal on Dec. 21 last year, he retires on Dec. 7, when he turns 70.

But Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's term at the helm of the highest court of the land makes up for in significance and accomplishment what it may lack in length of tenure.

Doubtless, the past year or so has been marked by many important and precedent-setting decisions on cases elevated to the Supreme Court. And this is because in the past year, the Arroyo administration launched an extraordinary number of challenges to the political status quo: to the delicate "balance of power" among the three branches of government enshrined in the Constitution; to the Bill of Rights and guarantees and protections granted ordinary citizens; and, indeed, to the Constitution itself.

In what could very well be the final decision issued by "his" Supreme Court, Panganiban himself indicated that his legacy as Chief Justice would most certainly be judged on the vote on the "people's initiative" to change the Constitution. The Court, he wrote, found itself at a "crossroads of history" and its decision would be remembered "either in shame or pride."

Indeed, in the wake of the hair-thin majority's finding that the "people's initiative" is a "gigantic fraud," an extraordinary attack has been launched on the Panganiban court. While the President has judiciously steered clear of any direct criticism of the Supreme Court decision, she did declare that the campaign for constitutional reform is still ongoing. But her allies in this effort have not been as circumspect. A lot of criticism has been aired regarding the strong and virulent language used by ponente Justice Antonio Carpio, in declaring the petition illegitimate, with some tracing his verbal assault to disputes and disappointments that members of Carpio's old law firm have with the Arroyo administration.

* * *

(IN)JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez, meanwhile, expressed "disappointment" in the Chief Justice's tie-breaking vote, assailing what he called the "unusual haste" with which the Supreme Court disseminated copies of its decision. He read this action as the Panganiban Court's way of ensuring that time doesn't run out on the motion for reconsideration that may be filed before Panganiban's date of retirement.

"Panganiban wants to make sure that he is still there when SC deliberates on the motion," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez also told reporters that while the Palace allegedly knew beforehand how the Chief Justice would vote on the issue, they were hoping Panganiban would at least abstain from voting. "We're not happy, but we respect the decision," Gonzalez added.

Significantly, Panganiban himself conceded that "pressure" had been exerted on him and the entire Court to vote either way on the "people's initiative" petition, in public pronouncements of officials, including the President's and Speaker Jose de Venecia's, and in private.

There is talk, for instance, that a "term sharing" agreement has already been forged between the two most senior Supreme Court justices—Reynato Puno and Leonardo Quisumbing—and Malacañang. While Puno and Quisumbing voted with the minority, we have no way of knowing if their votes were indeed "quid pro quo" or were an honest reflection of their own study of the legal issues involved.

* * *

IF I were Chief Justice Panganiban, I would simply shrug off all the cynical harping and speculation. There's about a month left before his retirement, and the record of the "Panganiban Court" can stand any amount of scrutiny.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, an old law professor of Panganiban's, assures in his foreword to Panganiban's final book "Liberty and Prosperity," that the Chief Justice "is not awed by all sorts of criticisms, whether from friends, well-wishers, skeptics or cynics."

And while there were all sorts of doubts expressed as to his qualifications for the Supreme Court and his right to head it, Salonga notes that of all the men who have occupied the highest seat in the high tribunal, "no one came from the ranks of the very poor—until Art Panganiban."

* * *

THE STORY the "CJ" tells in his book (the last of 11 books he has published yearly in the 11 years he has been in the Supreme Court) certainly follows the template of many a "poor boy makes good" tale. Born poor, to a father who could not afford to go to college because he had to work to support not just his wife and four children but also his own seven siblings, Panganiban worked odd jobs as a boy—selling newspapers and cigarettes and shining shoes, and sleeping in the sidewalks of Manila waiting for the papers to be dropped off.

Though he graduated with honors from Mapa High School and given a scholarship in prelaw at the University of the Philippines, Panganiban recalls that he couldn't go to the State University because his father could not afford even his bus fare from Sampaloc to Diliman. Instead, he obtained his law degree from the Far Eastern University, where he had the great fortune of meeting Salonga who was the dean of the law school, and attending classes given by prominent lawyers, some of whom made it to the Supreme Court. Granted a scholarship to Yale upon Salonga's recommendation, Panganiban was frustrated once more when his application for a travel grant was denied. "I felt frustrated and defeated," Panganiban writes.

How he rose from frustration and defeat, to achieving every lawyer's greatest dream is indeed an inspirational story. But I will hazard a guess that his sense of "destiny," and how he sought to fulfill this in his years in the Court, arose not just from past experience, but from an inner fire and conviction.

Hope in education

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SO ABIDING IS THE FILIPINO'S BELIEF IN EDUcation that we can think of it as occupying almost the same place in our culture as that assigned to religion. It is probably the only thing that makes us modern. We have no fear of the future, and neither are we sentimental about the past. We expect education not only to change us, but to liberate us from everything that constrains us. As families, we commit all that we have so our children may be better educated than us.

This modern outlook is so pervasive among our people that one must wonder how a nation such as ours can allow itself to be governed by the most backward-looking politicians. I think the answer to this puzzle might be found in an examination of the dissolution of our communities. In the wake of rapid urbanization, we failed to develop new publics that could unite our people and keep the collective spirit alive. Our cities are not only overcrowded; they also have no coherence. We do not have a real polity of informed citizens. What we have are rootless individuals with no opinions other than those extracted from them by pollsters, and no participation in national life other than as passive consumers of the mass media.

The situation in education starkly mirrors this absence of a unifying national purpose. Not only has the government consigned to the private sector a large part of its duty to provide basic education, it has also allowed private enterprise to virtually dictate the whole direction of higher education. The overnight proliferation of nursing schools is but a dramatic symptom of this abdication of an essential governmental function. It has led to so much waste not only of scarce material resources, but also of human lives. If one wants to affirm a dark view of the Philippine future, it is normal to refer to the dismal state of the country's education system.

But last week, at a forum on the practice of sociology in the Philippines, I learned something about what is happening to education that I did not quite expect. "There is hope," my University of the Philippines colleague Dr. Cynthia Bautista told her audience. For nearly a year now, as part of a research team, Dr. Bautista has been visiting public schools in the poorest and remotest areas of the country, talking to teachers, parents and principals, and taking a close look at National Achievement Test (NAT) scores.

The initial findings of her group indicate the impact of a social variable in education that previous programs in education have not highlighted. This is the role that the local school can play in reviving or strengthening the spirit of community. The other side of this is the amazing effect of the community's concrete involvement in the affairs of the school on student performance.

The research shows that the infusion of additional material resources into the school system produces the greatest impact on the performance levels of students, that is, when a social organization of multi-stakeholders is already active in creating an environment conducive to learning. The introduction of a school-based management (SBM) approach as a component of the Department of Education's Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) tapped into a collective energy that I wrongly thought our communities had lost. Under the SBM, funds for school improvement are placed directly at the disposal of the community led by the principal or teacher in charge. When parents, teachers and school heads band together to do what is necessary for the sake of their children's education, everything seems possible. The results on the ground show this in very clear terms. "I have not seen anything more empowering than this," Bautista said.

Instead of the politician or the office-bound consultant determining how the funds are to be used, the SBM concept puts total faith in the wisdom and integrity of the school and its community of stakeholders. As a result, all construction is made according to specification. There is no corruption, no waste and no misplaced priorities. More important, the new decentralized approach places the school at the center of community life and activates the spirit of shared accountability.

This approach to education reform was formally launched in 2003 in the 23 most under-resourced divisions of the public school system—from a total of 188 divisions. It may well be today the most valuable template for revolutionizing the country's public school system. The test scores of students in the 8,600 TEEP schools (out of about 37,000) are the most visible manifestation of the miracle now unfolding in Philippine education. In 2004-2005, TEEP schools were at par with or did better than even the schools in the National Capital Region and richer provinces. It wasn't like that at all in 2002.

The performance of the pupils of Guinsaugon Elementary School, a TEEP school in San Bernardo, Southern Leyte tells it all. In 2002-03, their mean percentage score in the NAT stood at 35.6. This rose to 49 in 2003-04, and shot up to 83.1 in 2004-05. A landslide buried this same school not too long ago, but at the rate its pupils were going, those poor kids would easily have bested the pupils of Manila's most expensive private schools.

The biggest impediment to education, John Dewey wrote, is "the isolation of the school from life." The school must break out of this isolation, and "secure the organic connection with social life." This is the basic truth about education that we are learning here. There is hope for our country; it lies in the local school serving as a catalyst for the rebuilding of our communities.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Call to arms

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

THERE IS SUDDENLY MUCH TALK ABOUT THE VARIOUS horrors that swamp the country today—poverty and pompous politicians, massive unemployment and mammoth human rights violations, the relentless corruption that rampages through every aspect of society. It is a long, long list that would make even the most bright-eyed of idealists blink.

Changing the Charter, claim proponents, will revolutionize all this. Restructuring government will overhaul this culture of politics, resuscitate a flagging economy, remove corruption, pull the Filipino out of the mire, put the Philippines on level with the great powers of the world, and, I expect, even provide the public with free hair rebonding and eyebrow-shaping. They claim it is for the country, that this initiative is the cry of the people. Be a hero, choose to dare, break out from the old system that has made slaves of us all. To change the Charter is to win back freedom—no gamble, simply a clear-cut solution to a complex problem.

It was high noon on a cloudy day when the high court thundered out its decision. It declared the initiative to be a manifestation of "bogus efforts falsely attributed to the sovereign people," and the proposal a revision and not an amendment. I do not understand the difference between a revision and an amendment; my thesaurus insists they're the same. But I know this much—it is an insult to my intelligence to have me believe that 6.3 million signatures constitute the people's will, especially if even Sigaw ng Bayan's Raul Lambino himself admits that the signatories are not explicitly aware of the amendments' content. "An initiative," says Justice Antonio Carpio, "that gathers signatures from the people without first showing to the people the full text of the proposed amendments is most likely a deception, and can operate as a gigantic fraud to the people."

Some of the proponents of the people's initiative are befuddled by the Supreme Court decision. "Oh for more brave souls in the Supreme Court," bewails one columnist. It doesn't take bravery to fight for this kind of Charter change. It takes much more: monumental arrogance, unmitigated gall and a sort of cowardice that will not accept defeat. There is a value to courage, true, the greatest risks, after all, do bear the greatest fruits. But when the risk is the future of 80 million citizens, it is not so much courage as recklessness. It is not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts who will pay the price of failure. It is the State. The people.

The way the government was arguing—and is still arguing—for Charter change makes it appear as if the current presidential system is some sort of malevolent entity, a being that can actively coerce, corrupt and command. That the shopping list of Philippine errors occurred in spite of a Constitution that neither condones nor supports it is something that proponents ignore. Laws exist, but the same administration that bewails a failed system is the same one that has spent the last few years attempting to leap over and around that system. Then they have the gall to tell us that it is the system's fault that we are rapidly making our way to hell on a handcart. It is the gunman blaming murder on his .45 caliber pistol, the drunk driver attributing an accident to his car.

It must be a comfortable feeling to sit in Manila and propose solution after solution that will magically ease the problems of the entire country. Change the form of government, add a prime minister, dissolve the Senate, liberalize media—such brilliant, brilliant ideas. It's easy to forget in the middle of such supposed brilliance, that in a hamlet in Negros, for example, a water-sealed toilet is the greatest dream of villagers who carve a living from the mud. That a parliamentary system can and has worked is unquestionable. It is still possible that time will come when there will be a genuine call for such a change in the Philippines. But the possibility it may not work—as it didn't in so many countries all over the world—is not something that should be taken for granted. It is unreasonable to argue that a change in the Constitution is the end-all, be-all and cure-all of all Filipino troubles—that's a cop-out for those who were responsible.

The legislative is already emasculated; even good men are forced to make choices that shouldn't exist at all. I am told that during the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, congressmen from the poorest provinces were offered huge amounts of funding for local projects in exchange for their anti-impeachment votes. Faced with a choice between integrity and their sworn duty to the people who have so little, they chose the latter.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita is bewildered. "We don't know what happened. There were some people we expected to vote." The Court's independence, because that is what it is, is a manifestation of at least a single body willing to put up grizzled fists, and fight. It is all the more important that it fight now, at a time of such disillusionment, when a decision for the farcical people's initiative can be chalked up as just another case of corruption.

It is one of the greatest ironies that it is the people's initiative that threatens to rob Filipinos of their power to initiate change. A "cure-all" only minimizes political will, and a switch to a parliamentary system isn't going to compel leaders to act. To intentionally mislead the public, to present the choice as one between good and evil instead of one that requires careful analysis, is the height of irresponsibility. It is the selfish leaders who are responsible for the state of the Philippines today, not the system that they have corrupted.

In a country where the smell of despair is so ripe that the air stinks of it, it's easy to toss out a lifeline to those so desperate to believe in something, anything—like the golden promise of Charter change. With their decision last Wednesday, four men and four women of the Supreme Court gave us something greater to believe in.

* * *

In celebration of critical thought and justice prevailing, congratulations are due to the University of the Philippines Diliman for bringing home the title from this year's National Debate Championships. Team Diliman A not only won the tournament, both speakers Nicolo Cabrera and Claudia Poon also brought home the trophies for Best Speaker. It's been a long wait, but to everyone whose blood pumps maroon, here's something else to believe in. In the grand tradition of the UP Debate Society, UP fight!

* * *

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SC ruling on 'people's initiative'

THE INITIATIVE PETITION DOES NOT comply with Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution on direct proposal by the people.

Section 2, Article XVII is the governing constitutional provision that allows a people's initiative to propose amendments to the Constitution. This section states:

Sec. 2. Amendments to this Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters therein. xxx

The deliberations of the [1986] Constitutional Commission (Concom) vividly explain the meaning of an amendment "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition."

Clearly, the framers of the Constitution intended that the "draft of the proposed constitutional amendment" should be "ready and shown" to the people "before" they sign such proposal. The framers plainly stated that "before they sign there is already a draft shown to them." The framers also "envisioned" that the people should sign on the proposal itself because the proponents must "prepare that proposal and pass it around for signature."

Full text

The essence of amendments "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition" is that the entire proposal on its face is a petition by the people. This means two essential elements must be present. First, the people must author and thus sign the entire proposal. No agent or representative can sign on their behalf. Second, as an initiative upon a petition, the proposal must be embodied in a petition.

These essential elements are present only if the full text of the proposed amendments is first shown to the people who express their assent by signing such complete proposal in a petition. Thus, an amendment is "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition" only if the people sign on a petition that contains the full text of the proposed amendments.

The full text of the proposed amendments may be either written on the face of the petition, or attached to it. If so attached, the petition must state the fact of such attachment. This is an assurance that every one of the several millions of signatories to the petition had seen the full text of the proposed amendments before signing. Otherwise, it is physically impossible, given the time constraint, to prove that every one of the millions of signatories had seen the full text of the proposed amendments before signing.

The framers of the Constitution directly borrowed the concept of people's initiative from the United States where various State constitutions incorporate an initiative clause. In almost all States, which allow initiative petitions, the unbending requirement is that the people must first see the full text of the proposed amendments before they sign to signify their assent, and that the people must sign on an initiative petition that contains the full text of the proposed amendments.

Potential for fraud

The rationale for this requirement has been repeatedly explained in several decisions of various courts. Thus, in *Capezzuto v. State Ballot Commission*, the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, affirmed by the First Circuit Court of Appeals, declared:

[A] signature requirement would be meaningless if the person supplying the signature has not first seen what it is that he or she is signing. Further, and more importantly, loose interpretation of the subscription requirement can pose a significant potential for fraud.

A person permitted to describe orally the contents of an initiative petition to a potential signer, without the signer having actually examined the petition, could easily mislead the signer by, for example, omitting, downplaying, or even flatly misrepresenting, portions of the petition that might not be to the signer's liking. This danger seems particularly acute when, in this case, the person giving the description is the drafter of the petition, who obviously has a vested interest in seeing that it gets the requisite signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Misleading

Moreover, "an initiative signer must be informed at the time of signing of the nature and effect of that which is proposed" and failure to do so is "deceptive and misleading" which renders the initiative void.

Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution does not expressly state that the petition must set forth the full text of the proposed amendments. However, the deliberations of the framers of our Constitution clearly show that the framers intended to adopt the relevant American jurisprudence on people's initiative. In particular, the deliberations of the Concom explicitly reveal that the framers intended that the people must first see the full text of the proposed amendments before they sign, and that the people must sign on a petition containing such full text. Indeed, Section 5(b) of Republic Act No. 6735, the Initiative and Referendum Act that the Lambino Group invokes as valid, requires that the people must sign the "petition x x x as signatories."

The proponents of the initiative ... secure the signatures in their private capacity and not as public officials. The proponents are not disinterested parties who can impartially explain the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed amendments to the people. The proponents present favorably their proposal to the people and do not present the arguments against their proposal. The proponents, or their supporters, often pay those who gather the signatures. Thus, there is no presumption that the proponents observed the constitutional requirements in gathering the signatures.

The proponents bear the burden of proving that they complied with the constitutional requirements in gathering the signatures—that the petition contained, or incorporated by attachment, the full text of the proposed amendments.

The Lambino Group did not attach to their present petition with this Court a copy of the paper that the people signed as their initiative petition. The Lambino Group submitted to this Court a copy of a signature sheet after the oral arguments of Sept. 26 when they filed their memorandum on Oct. 11. The signature sheet with this Court during the oral arguments was the signature sheet attached to the opposition in intervention filed on Sept. 7 intervenor Pete Quirino-Quadra.

The signature sheet attached to Quadra's opposition and the signature sheet attached to the Lambino Group's Memorandum are the same.

There is not a single word, phrase, or sentence of text of the Lambino Group's proposed changes in the signature sheet. Neither does the signature sheet state that the text of the proposed changes is attached to it. Petitioner Raul Lambino admitted this during the oral arguments before this Court on Sept.26.

Signature sheet not petition

The signature sheet merely asks a question whether the people approve a shift from the bicameral-presidential to the unicameral-parliamentary system of government. The signature sheet does not show to the people the draft of the proposed changes before they are asked to sign the signature sheet. Clearly, the signature sheet is not the "petition" that the framers of the Constitution envisioned when they formulated the initiative clause in Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution.

Petitioner Lambino, however, explained that during the signature-gathering from February to August, the Lambino Group circulated, together with the signature sheets, printed copies of the Lambino Group's draft petition which they later filed on Aug. 25 with the Commission on Elections. When asked if his group also circulated the draft of their amended petition filed on Aug. 30 with the Comelec, Lambino initially replied that they circulated both. However, he changed his answer and stated that what his group circulated was the draft of the Aug. 30 amended petition, not the draft of the Aug. 25 petition.

The Lambino Group would have this Court believe that it prepared the draft of the Aug. 30 amended petition almost seven months earlier in February when they started gathering signatures. Petitioner Erico B. Aumentado's "verification/certification" of the Aug. 25, petition, as well as of the Aug. 30 amended petition, filed with the Comelec, states as follows:

I have caused the preparation of the foregoing [amended] petition in my personal capacity as a registered voter, for and on behalf of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, as shown by Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 hereto attached, and as representative of the mass of signatories hereto.

The Lambino Group failed to attach a copy of the Ulap resolution to the present petition. However, the "Official Website of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines" [says] Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 does not authorize petitioner Aumentado to prepare the Aug. 25 petition, or the Aug. 30 amended petition, filed with the Comelec. Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 "support(s) the porposals (sic) of the Consulatative (sic) Commission on Charter Change through people's initiative and referendum as a mode of amending the 1987 Constitution." The proposals of the Consultative Commission are vastly different from the proposed changes of the Lambino Group in the Aug. 25 petition or Aug. 30 amended petition filed with the Comelec.

Impact on judiciary

For example, the proposed revisions of the Consultative Commission affect all provisions of the existing Constitution, from the preamble to the transitory provisions. The proposed revisions have profound impact on the judiciary and the national patrimony provisions of the existing Constitution, provisions that the Lambino Group's proposed changes do not touch. The Lambino Group's proposed changes purport to affect only Articles VI and VII of the existing Constitution, including the introduction of new transitory provisions.

The Ulap adopted Resolution No. 2006-02 on Jan. 14 or more than six months before the filing of the Aug. 25 petition or the Aug. 30 amended petition with the Comelec. However, Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 does not establish that Ulap or the Lambino Group caused the circulation of the draft petition, together with the signature sheets, six months before the filing with the Comelec. On the contrary, Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 casts grave doubt on the Lambino Group's claim that they circulated the draft petition together with the signature sheets. Ulap Resolution No. 2006-02 does not refer at all to the draft petition or to the Lambino Group's proposed changes.

In its manifestation explaining its amended petition before the Comelec, the Lambino Group declared:

After the petition was filed, petitioners belatedly realized that the proposed amendments alleged in the petition, more specifically, paragraph 3 of Section 4 and paragraph 2 of Section 5 of the transitory provisions were inaccurately stated and failed to correctly reflect their proposed amendments.

The Lambino Group did not allege that it was amending the petition because the amended petition was what the group had shown to the people during the February to August signature gathering. Instead, the Lambino Group alleged that the petition of Aug. 25 "inaccurately stated and failed to correctly reflect their proposed amendments."

The Lambino Group never alleged in the Aug. 25 petition or the Aug. 30 amended petition with the Comelec that it circulated printed copies of the draft petition together with the signature sheets. Likewise, the group did not allege in its present petition before this Court that it circulated printed copies of the draft petition together with the signature sheets. The signature sheets do not also contain any indication that the draft petition is attached to, or circulated with, the signature sheets.

Afterthought

It is only in its consolidated reply to the opposition-in-interventions that the Lambino Group first claimed that it circulated the "petition for initiative filed with the Comelec," thus:

[T]here is persuasive authority to the effect that "(w)here there is not (sic) fraud, a signer who did not read the measure attached to a referendum petition cannot question his signature on the ground that he did not understand the nature of the act." [82 C.J.S. S128h. Mo. State v. Sullivan, 224, S.W. 327, 283 Mo. 546.] Thus, the registered voters who signed the signature sheets circulated together with the petition for initiative filed with the Comelec below are presumed to have understood the proposition contained in the petition.

The Lambino Group's statement that it circulated to the people "the petition for initiative filed with the Comelec" appears an afterthought, made after the intervenors Integrated Bar of the Philippines (Cebu City chapter and Cebu province chapters) and Quadra had pointed out that the signature sheets did not contain the text of the proposed changes. In its consolidated reply, the Lambino Group alleged that it circulated "the petition for initiative" but failed to mention the amended petition. This contradicts what Lambino finally stated during the oral arguments that what his group circulated was the draft of the amended petition of Aug. 30.

Doubtful

It is extremely doubtful that the Lambino Group prepared, printed and circulated, from February to August during the signature-gathering period, the draft of the petition or amended petition they filed later with the Comelec. The group is less than candid with this Court in its belated claim that it printed and circulated, together with the signature sheets, the petition or amended petition. Nevertheless, even assuming the Lambino Group circulated the amended petition during the signature-gathering period, it admitted circulating only very limited copies of the petition.

During the oral arguments, Lambino expressly admitted that his group printed only 100,000 copies of the draft petition the group filed more than six months later with the Comelec. He added that he also asked other supporters to print additional copies of the draft petition but he could not state with certainty how many additional copies the other supporters printed. Lambino could only assure this Court of the printing of 100,000 copies because he himself caused the printing of these 100,000 copies.

Likewise, in the Lambino Group's memorandum filed on Oct. 11, the Lambino Group expressly admitted that "petitioner Lambino initiated the printing and reproduction of 100,000 copies of the petition for initiative x x x." This admission binds the Lambino Group and establishes beyond any doubt that the Lambino Group failed to show the full text of the proposed changes to the great majority of the people who signed the signature sheets.

Thus, of the 6.3 million signatories, only 100,000 signatories could have received with certainty one copy each of the petition, assuming a 100-percent distribution with no wastage. If Lambino and company attached one copy of the petition to each signature sheet, only 100,000 signature sheets could have circulated with the petition. Each signature sheet contains space for 10 signatures. Assuming 10 people signed each of these 100,000 signature sheets with the attached petition, the maximum number of people who saw the petition before they signed the signature sheets would not exceed 1,000,000.

Fatal omission

With only 100,000 printed copies of the petition, it would be physically impossible for all or a great majority of the 6.3 million signatories to have seen the petition before they signed the signature sheets. The inescapable conclusion is that the Lambino Group failed to show to the 6.3 million signatories the full text of the proposed changes. If ever, not more than one million signatories saw the petition before they signed the signature sheets.

In any event, the Lambino Group's signature sheets do not contain the full text of the proposed changes, either on the face of the signature sheets, or as attachment with an indication in the signature sheet of such attachment. Petitioner Lambino admitted this during the oral arguments, and this admission binds the Lambino Group. This fact is also obvious from a mere reading of the signature sheet. This omission is fatal. The failure to so include the text of the proposed changes in the signature sheets renders the initiative void for noncompliance with the constitutional requirement that the amendment must be "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition." The signature sheet is not the "petition" envisioned in the initiative clause of the Constitution.

For sure, the great majority of the 6.3 million people who signed the signature sheets did not see the full text of the proposed changes before signing. They could not have known the nature and effect of the proposed changes, among which are:

1. The term limits on members of the legislature will be lifted and thus members of Parliament can be reelected indefinitely;

2. The interim Parliament can continue to function indefinitely until its members, who are almost all the present members of Congress, decide to call for new parliamentary elections. Thus, the members of the interim Parliament will determine the expiration of their own term of office;

3. Within 45 days from the ratification of the proposed changes, the interim Parliament shall convene to propose further amendments or revisions to the Constitution.

These three specific amendments are not stated or even indicated in the Lambino Group's signature sheets. The people who signed the signature sheets had no idea that they were proposing these amendments. These three proposed changes are highly controversial. The people could not have inferred or divined these proposed changes merely from a reading or rereading of the contents of the signature sheets.

Parliamentary elections

During the oral arguments, Lambino stated that he and his group assured the people during the signature gathering that the elections for the regular Parliament would be held during the 2007 local elections if the proposed changes were ratified before the 2007 local elections. However, the text of the proposed changes belies this.

The proposed Section 5(2), Article XVIII on transitory provisions, as found in the amended petition, states:

Section 5(2). The interim Parliament shall provide for the election of the members of Parliament, which shall be synchronized and held simultaneously with the election of all local government officials. xxxx

Section 5(2) does not state that the elections for the regular Parliament will be held simultaneously with the 2007 local elections. This section merely requires that the elections for the regular Parliament shall be held simultaneously with the local elections without specifying the year.

Lambino, who claims to be the principal drafter of the proposed changes, could have easily written the word "next" before the phrase "election of all local government officials." This would have insured that the elections for the regular Parliament would be held in the next local elections following the ratification of the proposed changes. However, the absence of the word "next" allows the interim Parliament to schedule the elections for the regular Parliament simultaneously with any future local elections.

Thus, the members of the interim Parliament will decide the expiration of their own term of office. This allows incumbent members of the House of Representatives to hold office beyond their current three-year term of office, and possibly even beyond the five-year term of office of regular members of the Parliament. Certainly, this is contrary to the representations of Lambino and his group to the 6.3 million people who signed the signature sheets. Lambino and his group deceived the 6.3 million signatories, and even the entire nation.

Grand deception

This lucidly shows the absolute need for the people to sign an initiative petition that contains the full text of the proposed amendments to avoid fraud or misrepresentation. In the present initiative, the 6.3 million signatories had to rely on the verbal representations of Lambino and his group because the signature sheets did not contain the full text of the proposed changes. The result is a grand deception on the 6.3 million signatories who were led to believe that the proposed changes would require the holding in 2007 of elections for the regular Parliament simultaneously with the local elections.

The Lambino Group's initiative springs another surprise on the people who signed the signature sheets. The proposed changes mandate the interim Parliament to make further amendments or revisions to the Constitution. The proposed Section 4(4), Article XVIII on transitory provisions, provides:

Section 4(4). Within forty-five days from ratification of these amendments, the interim Parliament shall convene to propose amendments to, or revisions of, this Constitution consistent with the principles of local autonomy, decentralization and a strong bureaucracy.

Logrolling

During the oral arguments, Lambino stated that this provision is a "surplusage" and the Court and the people should simply ignore it. Far from being a surplusage, this provision invalidates the Lambino Group's initiative.

Section 4(4) is a subject matter totally unrelated to the shift from the bicameral-presidential to the unicameral-parliamentary system. American jurisprudence on initiatives outlaws this as logrolling—when the initiative petition incorporates an unrelated subject matter in the same petition. This puts the people in a dilemma since they can answer only either yes or no to the entire proposition, forcing them to sign a petition that effectively contains two propositions, one of which they may find unacceptable.

Under American jurisprudence, the effect of logrolling is to nullify the entire proposition and not only the unrelated subject matter. Thus, in *Fine v. Firestone*, the Supreme Court of Florida declared:

Combining multiple propositions into one proposal constitutes "logrolling," which, if our judicial responsibility is to mean anything, we cannot permit. The very broadness of the proposed amendment amounts to logrolling because the electorate cannot know what it is voting on—the amendment's proponents' simplistic explanation reveals only the tip of the iceberg. x x x x The ballot must give the electorate fair notice of the proposed amendment being voted on. x x x x The ballot language in the instant case fails to do that. The very broadness of the proposal makes it impossible to state what it will affect and effect and violates the requirement that proposed amendments embrace only one subject.

Stealth

Logrolling confuses and even deceives the people. In *Yute Air Alaska v. McAlpine*, the Supreme Court of Alaska warned against "inadvertence, stealth and fraud" in logrolling.

More importantly, there is no process for amending or splitting the several provisions in an initiative proposal. These difficulties clearly distinguish the initiative from the legislative process.

Thus, the present initiative appears merely a preliminary step for further amendments or revisions to be undertaken by the interim Parliament as a constituent assembly. The people who signed the signature sheets could not have known that their signatures would be used to propose an amendment mandating the interim Parliament to propose further amendments or revisions to the Constitution.

Apparently, the Lambino Group inserted the proposed Section 4(4) to compel the interim Parliament to amend or revise again the Constitution within 45 days from ratification of the proposed changes, or before the May 2007 elections. In the absence of the proposed Section 4(4), the interim Parliament has the discretion whether to amend or revise again the Constitution. With the proposed Section 4(4), the initiative proponents want the interim Parliament mandated to immediately amend or revise again the Constitution.

However, the signature sheets do not explain the reason for this rush in amending or revising again so soon the Constitution. The signature sheets do not also explain what specific amendments or revisions the initiative proponents want the interim Parliament to make, and why there is a need for such further amendments or revisions. The people are again left in the dark to fathom the nature and effect of the proposed changes. Certainly, such an initiative is not "directly proposed by the people" because the people do not even know the nature and effect of the proposed changes.

Intriguing provision

There is another intriguing provision inserted in the Lambino Group's amended petition of Aug. 30. The proposed Section 4(3) of the transitory provisions states:

Section 4(3). Senators whose term of office ends in 2010 shall be members of Parliament until noon of the thirtieth day of June 2010.

After June 30, 2010, not one of the present senators will remain as member of Parliament if the interim Parliament does not schedule elections for the regular Parliament by June 30, 2010. However, there is no counterpart provision for the present members of the House of Representatives even if their term of office will all end on June 30, 2007, three years earlier than that of half of the present senators. Thus, all the present members of the House will remain members of the interim Parliament after June 30, 2010.

The term of the incumbent President ends on June 30, 2010. Thereafter, the Prime Minister exercises all the powers of the President. If the interim Parliament does not schedule elections for the regular Parliament by June 30, 2010, the Prime Minister will come only from the present members of the House of Representatives to the exclusion of the present senators.

Senators discriminated

The signature sheets do not explain this discrimination against the senators. The 6.3 million people who signed the signature sheets could not have known that their signatures would be used to discriminate against the senators. They could not have known that their signatures would be used to limit, after June 30, 2010, the interim Parliament's choice of Prime Minister only to members of the existing House of Representatives.

An initiative that gathers signatures from the people without first showing to the people the full text of the proposed amendments is most likely a deception, and can operate as a gigantic fraud on the people. That is why the Constitution requires that an initiative must be "directly proposed by the people x x x in a petition"—meaning that the people must sign on a petition that contains the full text of the proposed amendments. On so vital an issue as amending the nation's fundamental law, the writing of the text of the proposed amendments cannot be hidden from the people under a general or special power of attorney to unnamed, faceless, and unelected individuals.

The Constitution entrusts to the people the power to directly propose amendments to the Constitution. This Court trusts the wisdom of the people even if the members of this Court do not personally know the people who sign the petition. However, this trust emanates from a fundamental assumption: the full text of the proposed amendment is first shown to the people before they sign the petition, not after they have signed the petition.

In short, the Lambino Group's initiative is void and unconstitutional because it dismally fails to comply with the requirement of Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution that the initiative must be "directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition."

(Excerpts from the Supreme Court decision dismissing the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution to pave the way for a shift to a unicameral-parliamentary system. Voting 8-7, the court dismissed on Oct. 25 the petition filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.)

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OVERCROWDED
A rapidly growing population forces the living to encroach on space for the dead and leave their marks. The situation manifests itself through this clothesline hanging above graves in a public cemetery in a village in Molo, Iloilo City.

BFAR declares ban on shellfish from 6 more bays, a lagoon

SORSOGON CITY—THE BUREAU of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has imposed a shellfish ban in six more bays and a lagoon as two more children died of shellfish poisoning here, while 12 others were confined in hospitals.

This, as residents of coastal villages continued to ignore the government-imposed ban on the gathering and eating of shellfish from Sorsogon Bay.

The latest victims were brothers Mark John Jesalva, 7, and Judel Jesalva, 3, who died late Friday night at the Fernando Duran Sr. Memorial Hospital.

The victims' five other siblings aged 5 to 14, together with their parents, were still under observation at the hospital.

Serafin Lacdang, head of the provincial fishery section, said coastal residents still ate "tahong" (shellfish) despite their repeated warnings.

"Many of these people ignore the risks just so they would have something to eat," he said.

In the latest advisory issued by BFAR, the seven other red tide affected areas were the coastal waters of Milagros, Masbate; coastal waters of Siaton in Negros Oriental; Dumanquillas Bay, Zamboanga del Sur; Balite Bay, Mati, Davao Oriental; Juag Lagoon in Matnog, Sorsogon; Irong-Irong Bay, Samar and Bislig Bay in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur.

Gil Adora, head of BFAR's technical services, said shellfish and "alamang" (tiny shrimps) from these areas were not safe for human consumption.

Earlier, three children also died after eating shellfish.

Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

RED TIDE AREAS

Milagros, Masbate;
Siaton in Negros Oriental;
Dumanquillas Bay, Zamboanga del Sur;
Balite Bay, Mati, Davao Oriental;
Juag Lagoon, Matnog, Sorsogon;
Irong-Irong Bay, Samar;
Bislig Bay in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur

3,000 troops to secure Asean summit

By Jolene R. Bulambot
Inquirer Visayas

LAPU-LAPU CITY—SOME 3,000 WAR-WEARY soldiers from Samar and Mindanao arrived in Cebu yesterday to secure critical areas of the province in time for the holding here of the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) summit in December.

Two Army battalions from the 46th Infantry Battalion from Catbalogan, Samar and the 7th Marines Battalion Landing Team from Sulu yesterday arrived on board two Navy vessels at the ports of the Naval Forces Central (Navforcen) based in Lapu-Lapu City.

More than 100 US-trained personnel from the Light Reaction Company of the Special Reaction Command, Scout Rangers, K-9 units, Explosives Ordnance Division, Civil Disturbance and Management Unit and Special Operation Wing of the Philippine Air Force have earlier arrived in Cebu, as part of the 4,500 security team tapped to secure Cebu for the international event.

Major Gen. Cardozo Luna, commanding general of the Central Command (Centcom), yesterday said that the 4,500 personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines would be fielded in the cities of Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Cebu and in the town of Cordova on Mactan Island.

Luna said the navy and army components of the AFP are assigned to secure ports, seaports and sea lanes while the air force is in charge of securing air space and airports.

The Philippine Coast Guard would assist the Navy in securing the ports, seaports and sea lanes, he added.

Luna said the AFP contingents would primarily function as support units to the Philippine National Police.

The Presidential Security Group (PSG) will play a very important role in the security preparations as they will serve as close-in security, billet security, liaison officers, security officers of the heads of states and their delegations, he added.

Luna also said that the plan to close the Mactan Channel to all passenger and cargo vessels during the four-day summit from Dec. 11-14 is still under study despite vehement opposition from ship owners.

He said the task force on security for the Asean summit is taking into consideration the economic and cost implications should the channel be closed for vessels.

"They (shipping companies) may have vehement opposition to this proposal to close the channel but we can't compromise security. That proposal is being evaluated and careful study is being made based on the implications. We hope we could get a good compromise," he said.

"We would be scrutinizing every vessel, watercraft and we are ready for it. Our security measures and contingency plans are all in place," he added.

Estioko said Navforcen would be deploying nine Navy ships to secure not just the island of Cebu but also provinces in Central Visayas and Boracay Island.

ROUNDUP

Palau leaders visit GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Palau officials, led by Kayangel Gov. Edwin Chiokai, visited the city on Thursday to study the technology employed by the local tuna industry. Chiokai said they have chosen the city for their study tour because of its famous tuna industry. Chiokai told reporters that Palau is rich in marine resources but it lacks the technology to develop it. He said they wanted to learn the intricacies of the industry, as well as how fishing operators run and manage their businesses particularly the production and processing of tuna products.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, Inquirer Mindanao

13 MILF members yield

COTABATO CITY—The military on Friday announced the surrender of at least 13 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Barira, Maguindanao. But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said the surrender was dubious. "It's always like this. The military announces the alleged surrender of some MILF members. I think there is money here," he said. Kabalu said their men are intact and those who yielded were bogus rebels.

Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Cop exec missing

DAVAO CITY—A police officer under camp restriction on suspicion of involvement in the illegal drugs trade here was reported missing. City police director Supt. Catalino Cuy said PO3 Arnold Dechavez slipped past camp guards at the Davao City Police Office compound at about 1 a.m. on Wednesday. He said Dechavez, who was being restricted to camp with fellow drug suspect PO3 Enrique Ayao, could be out of the city now. The two police officers were held following Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's order for their arrest.

Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Hearing aid donation

LEGAZPI CITY—On Oct. 22, Salve Barela, 11, of Barangay Bogtong here, who lost her sense of hearing as she was growing up, was able to hear again after the Quota International of Legazpi-Mayon, an international service organization, donated a hearing aid for her. Quota, in cooperation with the Bicol Gold Cuppers Inc. and the city government of Legazpi, raised funds for her, after the gun shootfest on weekend held in Barangay Padang here. The fund-raising activity was also an awareness campaign for people to take care of their ears and their sense of hearing.

Inquirer Southern Luzon

Igan Foundation tourney

THE IGAN Foundation held its fifth golf tournament at the Eastridge Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal to raise funds for play centers for urban poor children and orphans. The tournament was held last Oct. 20 and participated in by celebrity players including former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Interior Assistant Secretary Bryan Yamsuan, actors Edgar Mortiz and Ian Veneracion and other actors and actresses, businessman Garry Lim and other business leaders. The tournament was sponsored by Pagcor, Universal Robina Corp., Pascual Laboratories, San Miguel Corp., Sun Cellular, Unilever, GMA Network and other companies. Arnold Clavio, GMA 7 broadcaster and after whom the foundation was named, said proceeds of the tournament would go to the foundations' charity works.

2 hurt in Laguna blast

STA. ROSA CITY—Two workers were severely injured when a freon tank they were working on exploded inside the kitchen of a fastfood store inside the Balibago Complex here on Wednesday. Supt. Florendo Saligao, identified the wounded employees as Jaime Mapote and Dan Ariego, both aircon technicians. Saligao said Mapote lost his left arm while Ariego suffered wounds in different parts of the body.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

200 crocs newest Subic attraction

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The release of 200 crocodiles here on Oct. 24 signaled the launching of the latest offering of one of the country's premiere Safari spots.

Zoobic Safari has adopted the saltwater crocodiles from Palawan as part of its tourist attraction and wildlife conservation program in its two-hectare facility inside this freeport.

"This project is a joint effort between the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to help save and preserve these crocodiles which are now considered to be endangered species," Robert Yupangco, Zoobic Safari president, said during the first public viewing of the crocodiles.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga said Zoobic Safari's latest attractions are expected to boost tourist arrivals here.

"This is a very good program for kids and adults alike who come here to enjoy and be entertained, yet at the end of the day, they leave with the notion that they have also learned something new," Salonga said.

Allan Macatuno, Inquirer Central Luzon

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Child rebel is now an Army woman

FORMER child rebel Jelyn Dayong, now Army Private First Class.
JOSELLE BADILLA

By Joselle d.R. Badilla
Cagayan de Oro City

CLAD IN A MILITARY UNIform, former child rebel Jelyn Dayong, now 24 and married, sits on a chair and faces a computer inside the Office of the Civil Military Operations (CMO) of the Army's 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City.

From being a combatant of the communist New People's Army, Dayong is now a member of the Philippine Army with a rank of private first class.

Far from the INQUIRER's front-page photo of a young guerrilla beside a dead comrade after her group was ambushed by Scout Rangers in Sitio Baglamag, Barangay Perdida, Alegria, Surigao del Norte in February, 1999, Dayong now works as an office clerk of the CMO Office.

"I'm OK, Ma'am. I'm so happy with the freedom I have now. I can go out when I want to *at walang po akong problemang iniisip* (with no problems to think of)," Dayong told the INQUIRER.

She joined the Army and started military training in July 2003, just four months after she graduated from the Cagayan de Oro National High School.

But winning Dayong's trust wasn't easy for officers of the 4th ID, fully aware of her strong commitment to the communists' armed struggle.

DSWD custody

Dayong, then 15, went through "sustained re-indoctrination sessions" for almost a year while under the protective custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. She attended Bible studies regularly, one-on-one "political and ideological" sessions, showing of insurgency-related films, and testimonials of other rebel returnees.

The Army division also helped her family by providing them a three-hectare farm lot somewhere in Agusan del Norte, and P10,000 to finance their small-scale agricultural livelihood project.

Today, the lot is fully planted to bananas, coconut trees, ginger, corn and assorted vegetables.

After her release from the DSWD-Northern Mindanao in May 2000, Dayong told her parents that she wanted to become an adopted daughter of the 4th ID.

"I was very touched by the love and kindness they gave me and my family. My eyes were opened to the deception of communism," she said.

Her decision to stay with the military upon her release from custody came as a surprise even to people close to her.

That same year, the military facilitated her enrollment at the Bulua National High School, then to the Cagayan de Oro National High School where she graduated in March 2003.

The encounter

Although no longer hesitant to talk about it, Dayong still feels sad every time she recalls that fateful incident.

There is more to the photograph that came out in the front page of the INQUIRER on March 9, 1999, she said.

"*Ngayon ko lang nakita ulit yan, Ma'am. Masakit sa loob ko balikan yong pangyayari* (It has been a long time since I last saw that, Ma'am. It hurts every time I remember what happened)," she said.

Dayong and 19 other NPA comrades had just had their lunch and were taking a much-needed rest after a seven-hour trek when they were surprised by the Scout Rangers.

Dayong was hit in the leg and in the back.

"*Doon lang ako, nakaupo, may tama. Tapos naririnig ko lahat. Yong mga babaeng kasama ko, sigawan na sila nang sigawan* (I just sat there, wounded. I heard everything. My women companions were all shouting)," she said.

Dayong remembers the male comrade who was with her in the photograph.

"*Habang nagpuputukan, nag-uusap pa kami kahit nakikita ko ang tama niya sa leeg … yung kamay n'ya, may tama na rin, pero buhay pa siya* (While bullets were flying, we were talking although he was hit in the neck … and the hand, but he was still alive)," she said.

Talk of surrender

In the middle of the three-hour firefight, Dayong said the wounded comrade even convinced her that they surrender.

"Then, I said, how will we surrender?" Dayong said, stressing that a fierce exchange of gunfire was still ongoing.

"*Nakikita ko kung saan-saan yung bagsak ng mga bala. Parang bagyo. Tumatama sa lupa, sa mga damo, parang hinahati ng bolo. Malakas na malakas pa ang ulan. Masakit sa balat ang patak ng ulan* (I saw where the bullets fell. Like a rainstorm, they hit the ground, the grass … as if hacked with a bolo, It was still raining heavily, the drops of water hurt me)," she said.

Dayong said she was still lucky she didn't die. Minutes after it all ended, and after her comrades withdrew, leaving her behind, she cried.

"*Noong natapos na putukan, sabi ko, 'Grabe naman, iniwan nila ako.' Tapos nasa harap ko na ang mga sundalo* (When the shooting ended, I said to myself, 'Damn! They left me.' Then, the soldiers appeared)," she said.

Dayong said at first she thought the soldiers would finish her off. "I heard them. One said, 'Let's spare her.' I can't understand them. They were citing protocol," she said.

Propaganda

Dayong's decision to join the Army has been seen as a boost to the AFP's propaganda campaign against the NPA.

"She expressed willingness to support the military in its psy-ops efforts, especially in the NPA's recruitment of minors. She is positive about learning. She now enjoys clerical work using the latest communication technology,' Maj. Samuel Sagun, 4th ID public affairs chief said.

Dayong said her parents were afraid of her joining the military but added that she was able to convince them.

"I also want to help them financially. I want to give them a house, TV," she said.

This was the same family that Dayong ran away from after learning that her parents wanted her to marry early according to the tradition of the Mamanwa tribe. To escape from the arranged marriage, she joined the NPA.

Dayong now speaks of the two different armed groups.

"*Yong sinasabi nilang* democracy *at* human rights. *Wala talaga yan sa kilusan. Kasi noong nasa kilusan pa ako at may* POW (prisoner of war) *kami, pinatay pa rin nila* (When they mention democracy and human rights, there are none in the movement. When I was still with them and we had a POW, they still killed the prisoner)," she said.

Dayong said the guerrillas hardly had enough food and rest.

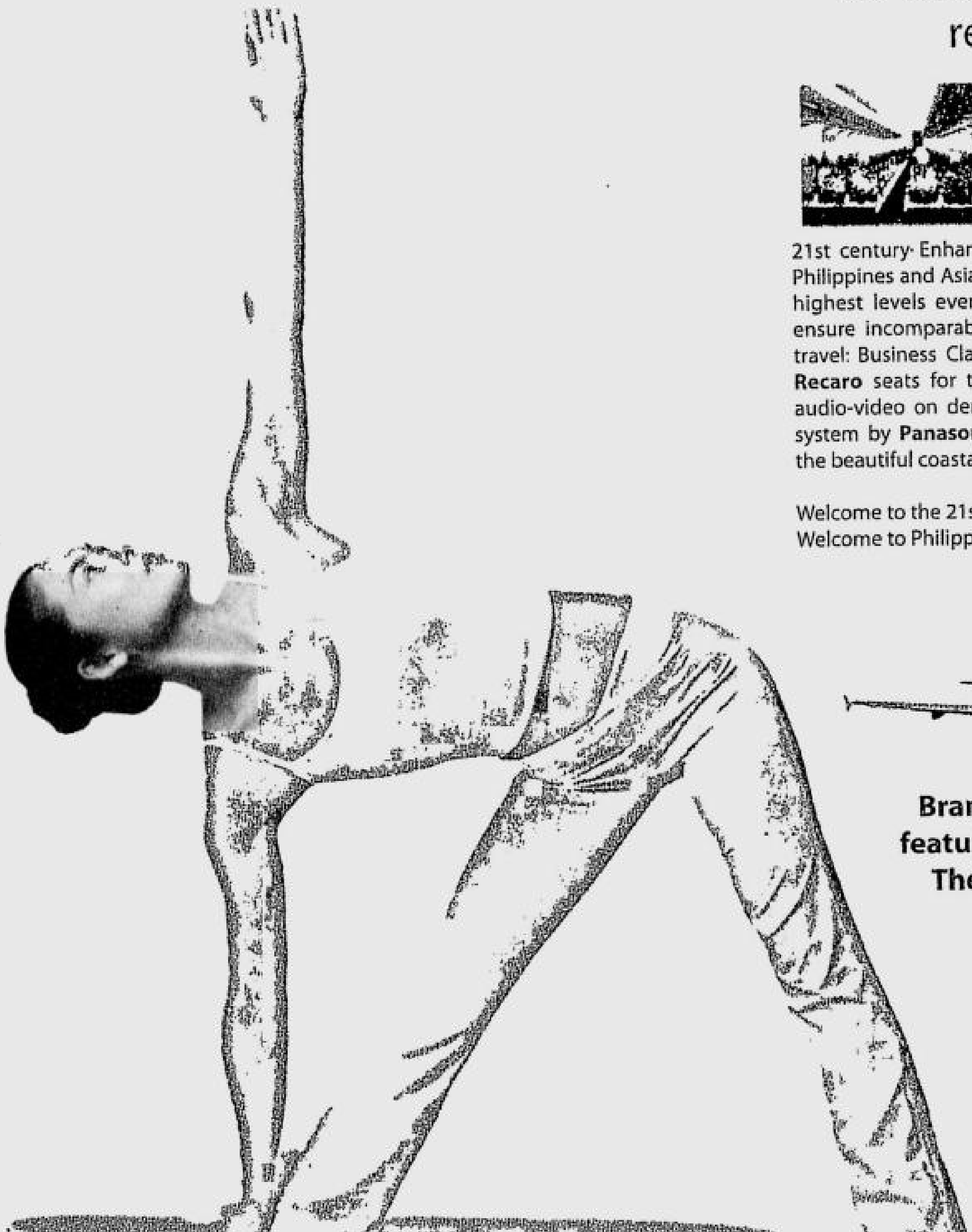
"There's really nothing to eat. No sleep. When the women have menstruation, we did not have any sanitary napkin," she said in Filipino.

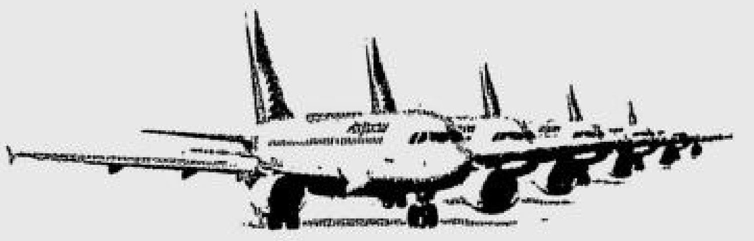
Still, she misses her close friend in the NPA.

"Maybe my friend is 22 or 23 now," she said.

Dayong enjoys the comfort of a happy family now. In 2005, she married a fellow soldier. They have a year-old daughter.

"*Sa prinsipyo, mas importante hanapin mo saan at kung ano ang totoo. Yong may* freedom *ka. Alam mo may rason ang ipinaglalaban mo. May kalayaan ako* (Search for your principle and what is true, where you are free. You know you have a reason for fighting. I have freedom)," Dayong said.





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Church, trade groups form peace mission

DUREZA

COTABATO CITY—A mission composed of 17 community leaders in Mindanao has embarked on a campaign to bring back the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on track.

The peace negotiations hit a snag over the issue of territory as the MILF insisted on the inclusion of more than 1,000 villages into the Bangsamoro juridical entity. The MILF also said the creation of the future territory should be without pre-conditions.

But the government said it could only allow 600 pre-dominantly Muslim villages to be included in the Bangsamoro juridical entity. The creation of the territory would also be the subject of a plebiscite.

The lobby mission was organized by the Mindanao People's Caucus, a group working for the resolution of conflicts in Mindanao.

"While war is being imposed on us Mindanaoans, I believe our mission has delivered the strong message of peace that our war-affected communities want the whole nation and the world to know," Mary Ann Arnado, MPC secretary general, said after the lobby group met with government officials, diplomats and Church leaders.

Timuay Melanio Ulama, MPC chair, said the mission was a success.

Commitments

"We have gathered commitments from all people we met here who said they will do all they can to support our cause for a more meaningful and lasting peace in Mindanao," he said.

Ulama said Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, had told them the Arroyo administration was committed to peace.

Fr. Bert Layson, OMI, cochair of the multisector MPC, said unless the peace talks resumed, Mindanao would continue to live in an atmosphere of fear.

"There are fears of another evacuation, destruction of farms, damage to properties (sic) and traumatized children," he said.

Layson said they were worried about the continued impasse because this could be taken advantage of by some quarters.

He cited the recent bomb run in Central Mindanao, which is being blamed on the MILF.

"The reason why this delegation is here on a mission is because we are again worried. We are worried because of the impasse or breakdown, as the MILF says, of the GRP-MILF Peace Talks. The problem is real and we believe that if the impasse or breakdown is not addressed in the shortest time possible, the situation on the ground could get out of control," he said.

Prof. Octavio Dinampo, an MPC council member from Sulu, said the Bangsamoro problem is not the problem of the people of Mindanao only.

Nationwide concern

"People from Luzon and the Visayas should really take ownership over the peace issue of Mindanao because war will not only destruct the economy of Southern Philippines but of the entire country as well. Mindanao is considered one of our major rice granaries and if the island fails to produce because of war, our food security will also be at stake," he said.

Pastor Reu Montecillo, MPC council member from Lanao del Norte, said the 16 diplomats they met with have expressed full support to the lobby group.

He said the diplomats have committed to help them find other peace models from the experiences of other countries.

"There are billions (of pesos) worth of peace and development projects that are at stake in the event a war in Mindanao explodes," he said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

SPOOKY

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

A decrepit, abandoned hut near a cemetery in Barangay Sta. Cruz in the Island Garden City of Samal has become the object of ghost stories circulating in the village. Such stories become popular as All Souls Day draws near.

Groups focus on abuses vs tribal Filipinos

BAGUIO CITY—ANTICRIME watchdogs have decided to nose around ancestral land issues, believing that indigenous Filipinos require the same attention they give to heinous crimes.

"We are [now fighting to restore] ancestral lands to their rightful owners because we believe this is an economic crime and a violation of human rights... We have to attend to all kinds of crimes," said Jose Malvar Villegas Jr., head of the Citizens Crime Watch (CCW).

"We believe that this unscrupulous land-grabbing is a crime." Villegas said.

He said that this economic injustice leads to economic depression, which is one of the roots of criminality.

Other anticrime groups like Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), Kilusang Kapatiran Kontra Krimen and Bantay Bayan are supporting their shift to crusading on behalf of indigenous peoples, he said.

"For centuries, indigenous peoples have been abused. The issue here is how can we possibly recover ancestral lands squatted on by the government," he said.

For their pilot suit, Villegas and CCW lawyer Venancio Villanueva filed a petition at the Office of the President to recover five hectares of forest lands in Puguis in La Trinidad, Benguet, for the Ibaloi Chanal Bunai clan.

A regional trial court had granted the La Trinidad government's petition to cancel the titles of private home lots that are located inside the 48-hectare Puguis communal forest.

This decision was recently affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

The town council is processing the cancellation of other home lots found inside the forest, regardless of their ancestry. Twenty-two families own titles to lands skirting or overlapping forest territories, according to La Trinidad officials.

Villegas said the local government now controls the clan's ancestral lands, including the area where the Puguis Elementary school is located, as well as part of the Pico-Lamtang bypass highway.

"The government built the highway and allowed the construction of the school and vegetable gardens without [offering the clan] compensation and [without undergoing] proper expropriation," Villanueva said.

He said the town put up the school in 1947 even though the school lot was not titled to the Department of Education. He said they have enough evidence supporting the claim of the clan. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

APO GULADA, of the Bagobo's Tagabawa tribe, displays her weaving skills during Indigenous People's Month held at a mall in Davao City.

BING GONZALES/INQUIRER MINDANAO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, October 29, 2006
ABC
Iba Tayo
9 na lang ang bibida!
LINGGO LUNES 9PM
Philippine Idol
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Philippine Idol	Shall We Dance		ABC Theater		
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song, Ang Soundtrack Ng Lovelife Mo	Lovespell		The Buzz				TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		Sharon		Pinoy Dream Academy	Sunday's Best			
AXN		Stuart Little 2				AXN Extreme Macau	Samsung Sports World	AXN Shakedown		The Amazing Race (Season X)		World's Most Amazing Videos		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: NY (Season 2)	
bTV				Vintage NBA		NBA Greatest Game				NBA Jam Local	TMac Returns Special	NBA Inside Stuff	NBA Jam	NBA Access	NBA Greatest Game				
Cartoon Network	Camp Lazlo	Baby Looney Tunes	Tom & Jerry Tales	The Woody Woodpecker Show				Pokemon/The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Pokemon		Courage The Cowardly Dog/ [illegible] Cowardly Dog	Scooby-Doo & The Legend Of The Vampire		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Ben 10	Teen Titans	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One				Snow White				Sigaw				Sidni				Ako Legal Wife			
Cinemax	Pterodactyl (2:25PM)			White Hunter, Black Heart				The Last Samurai					The Making Of [illegible] 2	[illegible] Mission 17			The Cowboy Way (10:25PM)		
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Living Golf/Living [illegible] Of Life	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The [illegible] CNN [illegible] Global Challenge	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Living [illegible] Of Life	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		I, Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		L.O. Criminal Intent + Traffic		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law Firm		Treasure Hunters		L.O. Criminal Intent + Traffic		Oz		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel				American Chopper		Tribe		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Mega Builders		Discovery Atlas					
Disney Channel	Art Attack Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Hannah Montana	American Dragon Yr. 2	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean	Wonderful World Of Disney			America's Funniest Home Videos	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	[illegible] So The Drama	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Safeway Classic Presented By Pepsi Finals				MLB World Series Game 5 (If Nec)							NFL Football: Giants Vs Cowboys						IRL IndyCar Programming
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated Oh Special	American Dreams		One Tree Hill		America's Next Top Model		Friends	Simple Life 4	Project Runway		Nip/Tuck		Rated Oh Special	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Sailing With Celebrities		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		The Line Up		The Journal Editorial Report	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				[illegible]		Pinoy Meets World		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel				Rocketman		Hercules				Hercules				A Midsummer Night's Dream				Midsomer Murders: Death And Dreams	
HBO				Now On The Big Screen In Oct	Friday Night Lights				The Flintstones (Movie)			Dante's Peak			The Cable Guy (9:45PM)				Wag The Dog (11:40PM)
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler	Rockman Exe	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Scrapped Princess	Knights Ramune NG	Offside	Starship Operators	G3	Votoms V Evolution	Yu-Gi-Oh [illegible]				Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Ang Bayan [illegible]		EZ Shop	Mommy Academy	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		EBC Earth Files		Pinoy Action Hits					EL SHADDAI		
JackTV				Comedy Central	Premium Blend	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Distraction	Banzai	American Dad	Family Guy	WWE Smackdown				[illegible] South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers	Dr. Katz
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY Crafts	The Great Adventure	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		[illegible]	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		West Side Story				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Hala	VMA 06: All Eyes On Timberlake	MTV News	MTV Live	Homecoming	Score	Boiling Points	Pimp My Ride	Yo Momma	Punk'd	Wildboyz	Angels & Airwaves Make a Vid	RHCP Make a Vid	Punk: Making of [illegible]	Making The Vid: Danity Kane	MTV2: AFI Live	5 Things About Cassie	MTV Screen	Sessions Raw
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Megastructures		Explorations Powered By Duracell	From The Heart	Milestones		Ultimate Disaster		Explorations Powered By Duracell	From The Heart	Milestones		Best Of The Week		Nat Geo Investigates			
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Galing)						Tinig Ng Bayan Congress In Action				Unlimited Diving	TM Top Masters Challenge		The Sports List	Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Special Events: [illegible]	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubuyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Avatar: The Last Airbender/ Kappa Mikey		The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Diego Sta. Cruz				Jessica Alfaro Story				Ginto't Pilak				Power Of Two				Takaw Tingin
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angel		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sing				Moby Dick	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Sure Hits	World Poker Tour		WWE Experience		WWE Smackdown		Ultimate Fighter		Sunday's Big Event				Global Window	The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Sheperds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports				Motoring Today		Undisputed		World Game		Celebrity Poker				Breeders Cup					
Star Movies			Flatliners				Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story			The Princess Diaries (7:05PM)				Robots	I, Robot (10:35PM)				
Star World		The Office	Two And A Half Men	Kevin Hill		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	NCIS		Desperate Housewives		Oprah Prime Time		Criss Angel		Criss Angel		Hollywood Shootout	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Exposed		Y-Speak		Gag Itol	US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Badminton Extreme		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Who is the Real No. 1 Domestic Airline?

Scheduled Domestic Passenger Traffic
July 2005 to August 2006*

Airline	Pax Carried	Seats	Share (%)
PAL	4,380,903	5,877,350	48.8%
Airline No. 2	2,762,885	3,984,683	30.8%
Airline No. 3	1,041,459	1,549,049	11.6%
Airline No. 4	512,922	1,049,513	5.7%
Airline No. 5	277,346	398,257	3.1%
TOTAL	8,975,515	12,858,852	100%

* Latest certified figures by the Civil Aeronautics Board, Department of Transportation and Communications. Share percentage refers to Passengers Carried.

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People's initiative not yet dead—Gonzalez

By Blanche S. Rivera

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo and her staunchest allies may have conceded defeat in the recent Supreme Court decision junking the people's initiative, but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is convinced that this mode of amending the Constitution is not yet dead.

Gonzalez said that with the justices changing their minds "up to the last minute of voting," the people's initiative was not as doomed as had been alleged.

"The Supreme Court has spoken… We have to accept it. But it does not mean that as far as we are concerned, that is the end of the game," the secretary said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo forum.

He said there were other legal remedies that initiative proponents could employ, including the filing of a motion for reconsideration.

"We are disappointed by what happened; there are many stories to tell about that," he said.

Gonzales said Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban was right when he said the Charter change issue was one that would be talked about "for a thousand years."

However, Gonzalez said, the point of discussion would be why Panganiban changed his mind on the legitimacy of seeking to amend the Constitution through a people's initiative, which he had upheld in a vote in 1997.

"That is the best proof that a motion for reconsideration [would still be feasible]. Because if the Chief Justice changes his mind in a span of a few years, so can others," Gonzales said, adding:

"The voting was very close (8-7). Many speculations can be made out of that kind of voting… If a motion for reconsideration is filed, it can change the complex situation."

Before Nov. 9

Over Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program "Para sa iyo, Bayan," lawyer Raul Lambino of Sigaw ng Bayan, one of the petitioners for the people's initiative, said his group would not allow the 6.3 million signatures in the petition to go to waste.

Lambino said Sigaw would file a motion for reconsideration before Nov. 9, the end of the 15-day period for the filing of such a motion.

He said even former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, one of the country's top trial lawyers, was shocked by the harsh words in the decision written by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

"To borrow Mendoza's words, it's a very 'un-Supreme-Court-like' opinion," Lambino said. *"Ito ay hayagang pang-iinsulto sa mga taong pumirma dito* (It is a blatant insult to the signatories)."

Lambino insisted that the Supreme Court was not a trier of facts and should only decide questions of law.

He said the decision was rushed by the tribunal to earn points for Panganiban, who is retiring in December.

As proof, he said, Sigaw did not get a pink copy of the notice of judgment but merely a carbon copy of it, which he said was unusual.

Not party to petition

Gonzalez said it was up to Sigaw and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) to file the motion for reconsideration because the government was not a party to the petition.

He said the Office of the Solicitor General participated in the arguments because it was ordered by the Supreme Court to make a presentation.

"I'm making this very clear because in the future things might happen and they may raise the issue against Solicitor General [Antonio] Nachura," Gonzalez said.

He also said there was time to hold a plebiscite before the May 2007 elections but that this would likely cause an adjustment in the schedule of the polls itself.

He said the elections could be moved to November to make way for a plebiscite to explain the changes sought by the Charter change proponents.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who heads both Ulap and the League of Provinces of the Philippines, is not about to surrender.

"We may have lost the battle before the high court, but not the war," Aumentado said. "We will look for other options, including supporting the call for a constitutional convention."

Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla echoed Aumentado's sentiment, saying the high court's decision was not the end of the road for them.

"We still have the constituent assembly as a mode of amending the Constitution," Petilla said.

Call for prayer

But in Bacolod City, Bishop Vicente Navarra called on the faithful to "continue storming heaven with prayers that the evil intent of those pushing for a constituent assembly will not triumph."

The bishop issued the call amid plans by the Arroyo administration's allies in the House to amend the Constitution through the convening of Congress into a constituent assembly.

He described as "truly patriotic" the Supreme Court's decision saying that "to allow this constitutionally infirm initiative propelled by deceptively gathered signatures to alter basic principles in the Constitution is to allow a desecration of [it]."

"I thank the good Lord and the honorable judges who voted against the deception thus saving our country and democracy," he said.

But Navarra said he was very much dismayed by the fact that only eight justices were against the people's initiative.

"How did the seven others assess the people's initiative?" he said. "For me, their vote is an insult to their intelligence. It should have been a sweeping 'no' or, at most, a greater majority."

Con-Con

On the other hand, the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) urged Charter change proponents to consider a constitutional convention.

While this mode is more expensive to implement, it is not as divisive as a people's initiative, PDSP spokesperson Jose Ricafrente said.

"The efficacy of a constituent assembly is as ticklish as the people's initiative and will surely land in the Supreme Court. It is a wonder then why the less controversial constitutional convention has not been set in place to date," he said. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Carla P. Gomez, Chito A. Fuentes and Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

THE FIRM'S F. Arthur Villaraza agrees with the Supreme Court ruling but says it was never involved at any point in the President's goal to change the Constitution. LYN RILLON

'We remain loyal to GMA'

From page A1

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez also told reporters that "there's a big law firm that is cheering … that it defeated Malacañang."

Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, said Ms Arroyo was "really perplexed" that those whom she had appointed to the Supreme Court "would turn out to have the harshest opinions."

The right way

Villaraza also sought to distance The Firm from the issue of Charter change, which sources said was a major point of disagreement with its most important client.

"The Firm had never been tasked by her Excellency the President to assist in or shepherd the people's initiative at any stage of its development. Until the time the ruling came out, we were unaware of what was happening to the case save for what was being reported in media," he said.

Villaraza said The Firm was for Charter change, but wanted it to be done the right way.

"While we now agree with the high court's conclusion, we regret that Sigaw failed simply because [it] did not comply with the means and manner outlined by the Constitution in amending the Charter through a people's initiative," he said, adding:

"The Firm stands squarely for the need to change our Charter, but asserts, too, like any other law-abiding citizen, that it should be done in accordance with the Constitution."

Full assistance

With the 8-7 defeat of the people's initiative petition in the high court, Villaraza and Angangco expressed willingness to take up Charter change through a constituent assembly, which, some legal experts say, has a better chance of succeeding.

"If tasked by the President, the Firm is prepared to lend its full assistance to shepherd a genuine effort for Charter change through the constituent assembly within the clear parameters laid out in the Constitution," Villaraza said.

"For lawyers of The Firm, Charter change is a matter of individual conscience." he added.

His 'own estimate'

Speaking yesterday on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program "Para Sa Iyo, Bayan," Justice Secretary Gonzalez said The Firm could indeed be responsible for the defeat of the initiative petition filed by Sigaw and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Gonzalez also said that while he did not directly blame Villaraza & Angangco for the dismissal of the petition, many people were of that belief, and linking the law firm to the defeat of the petition was just "my own estimate."

"I don't think I said that (blamed The Firm). But I did make some comments considering that the *ponente* who wrote a very strong fantastic opinion against the people's initiative was a senior member of that law firm before he was appointed [associate justice] by the President," Gonzalez said.

He added: "There are really people who are thinking along that line. I just confirmed it. *Ang sabi ko, mukhang ganoon nga* (What I said was, it looks that way). But I never directly said The Firm should be blamed.

"But you can read what had happened—*na iyon ay mismong* appointee *ng Presidente, pagkatapos* he's the head of the law firm which has been identified with them (the First Family) for a long time.

Romulo Macalintal, the President's election lawyer, said she should be congratulated.

"Instead of saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo is disappointed [by the high court's decision], we should congratulate her for appointing people to the judiciary who are independent and cannot be pressured, like Carpio and [Chief Justice Artemio] Panganiban. The President is really one for an independent judiciary, and not a dictator," Macalintal said in a text message to the INQUIRER. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Purchasing officers urged…

From page A1

which products or raw materials are to be used in a company, school or institution, from office supplies to cement and light bulbs to detergents.

GP3 stands for Green Productivity, Green Procurement, Green Philippines, a joint program of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Its implementing partner is the Clean & Green Foundation Inc. chaired by former First Lady Amelita Ramos.

In a two-day conference in Makati City that drew over 150 corporate and government executives and environmental advocates, participants were taught how to be more discriminating in choosing suppliers or shopping for materials.

They should, for example, check the claims printed on the product labels to see if they are "eco-friendly," "biodegradeable," or "essentially non-toxic," said one American resource speaker.

But these claims could be misleading unless backed by "clearer, more accurate information that is verifiable," said Scot Case, an international expert on "how to buy green" and a trainer for various US entities like the World Bank, Microsoft and Starbucks.

"We are targeting institutional buyers because they have a big role in creating demand for environmentally sound products,'" CCFI Executive Director Imelda Sarmiento told the INQUIRER at the sidelines of the conference held at the Dusit Hotel.

"From them, we believe, the awareness can easily trickle down to households and individual consumers," she said.

Biggest bulk buyee

GP3 was also designed to fast-track the implementation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 301. Signed in 2004, the order directs the government—the country's biggest bulk buyer—to be at the forefront of green purchasing, Sarmiento said.

For the private sector, the campaign also serves as a vehicle for the National Ecolabelling Program spearheaded by the DTI and DENR, under which products sold in the country earn the "Green Choice Philippines" stamp of approval for meeting a set criteria.

The "Green Choice" seal has so far been awarded to detergent brands Surf and Pride, she said.

IN ACTION: Japanese soccer star Hidetoshi Nakata of Bolton, an English club, vies for the ball during the UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) Cup match at Reebok stadium in Bolton last year. INQUIRER PHOTO

Japanese football star drops in

From page A1

flashing a wide smile.

It was that smile and all the other smiles from the residents of Barangay Payatas B that left the biggest impression on the former star of Japan's last World Cup team and two-time Asian Football Confederation Player of the Year (1997 and 1998).

"It was impressive," Nakata told the INQUIRER as he navigated with ease the narrow streets of Payatas B. "I am sure they do not have an easy life but they do not look sad or depressed to me. They seem very positive."

He visited Payatas as part of a personal quest to have a better understanding of the social ills that plague less-developed countries, especially in Asia where he is from. He said he wanted to see another side of the world that he hardly saw as a world-class professional athlete.

Soccer star

Nakata began playing professionally in 1995 at 18. He played for Italian premier league teams Perugia and AS Roma. He also played for Japan in three FIFA World Cup tournaments and in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

Last year, he was made Knight of the Star of Italian Solidarity, one of the Italy's highest honors, for improving the country's image overseas.

In July this year, the attacking midfielder announced his retirement from professional football, after Japan's early exit from the World Cup in Germany. Now he had more time and freedom to travel, he said.

Fashion icon

The Philippines was the first stop in his Asian tour, thanks in part to a friend who happened to be Filipino.

"As a professional football player, you only get to see one part of the world [usually from] five-star hotels," he said, "but I've always known there was more [out there] and this is what I would like to see in my future travels."

Nakata is known as a fashion icon and wears designer clothes and sports colorful haircuts. Walking around in Payatas, he was equally comfortable in a plain white tee, Bermuda shorts and Nikes.

He said he had no grand plans of suddenly becoming an ambassador of goodwill or to publicly fight for a cause. He was simply visiting urban poor communities to deepen his understanding of their living conditions. The trip was arranged by the local office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP).

New journey

"When you get to see the other side, you will have an idea of what you can really do to help," Nakata said, "Maybe then you can start to ask yourself what you can do about their problems."

As he said in an open letter to his fans when he announced his retirement: "The time has come to take leave from this journey called professional football. I want to start a new journey which will allow me to discover a new world."

He arrived in Manila late Friday from Tokyo and toured Payatas yesterday morning.

Unforgettable

PCUP head Percival C. Chavez said before Nakata left Payatas, he suggested to local officials to consider developing a park in the area where children could play, perhaps even learn football.

Nakata also went to Rosario, Pasig, to take part in the Football sa Kalye (Football in the Streets) program for street children where he played a little, gave away some footballs and then visited a UNDP solid waste management project, also in Pasig.

He said that when he returns home, he would talk with other professional athletes and share with them the "new world" he has seen in his travels.

"You cannot really control their reaction to what I will tell them, but at least I will get to share my experiences," Nakata said.

His experience with 7-year-old Lopez and the rest of the Filipinos was not something he would soon forget.

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Late Sports

More stories on A25 to 28

More stories on A25 to 28

WARREN Ybañez of Red Bull dives for the loose ball against Welcoat's Jojo Tangkay. The Barako downed the Dragons, 80-77, Friday night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Realtors are for real

Trip Phone Pals; Beermen roll back Express

By Musong R. Castillo

SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA—IT'S NOW SAFE TO SAY THAT the Sta. Lucia Realtors are for real.

And the rookie who gives direction to this erstwhile underachieving squad is doing more than a fine job.

Kelly Williams tossed in a career-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as the Realtors posted a 102-90 road victory over powerhouse Talk 'N Text yesterday in the ongoing PBA Philippine Cup.

The 6-foot-7 Detroit-born forward spearheaded a crippling 17-6 run at the halfway mark of the third period, boosting the Realtors to a 79-65 lead that eventually improved their league-leading mark to 5-1.

"We got our running game going, and we knew we had them (Phone Pals) when they tried to run with us," said Sta. Lucia coach Alfrancis Chua.

The loss was the third for the high-profile Phone Pals.

In Subic, Zambales, San Miguel, packing so much firepower from inside and out, routed the Air21 Express, 118-102, for a third straight win that put the Beermen near the upper half of the standings.

San Miguel broke the game wide open in the third period, racing to leads of as many as 20 points, 73-53, after a Dondon Hontiveros layup and two free throws, as the Beermen improved to 3-3.

Hontiveros was backed up by sophomore forward Wesley Gonzales, who shot 15 of his 18 points in the first half.

It was the first loss for the Express since they came up with a 127-100 whipping of Talk 'N Text.

After breaching the 101-point mark in each of their last four games, it was clear that the Express' running offensive machine did not hum on all cylinders as the team fell to 2-4 overall in a tie with Coca-Cola in eighth spot.

Air21 had a hard time keeping pace with the Beermen, who saw all 11 players it fielded contributing offensively, including seven in double figures.

After opening up the tournament with three straight wins, Talk 'N Text dropped to 4-3, now tied with idle defending champion Purefoods for fourth spot.

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 102—Williams 25, Duremdes 17, Espino 16, Bughao 15, Cabagnot 9, Aquino 6, Omolon 4, Isip 4, Mendoza 3, Gonzales 3, Calimag 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 90—Carey 18, Taulava 15, Washington 14, Alapag 13, Allado 13, Ritualo 7, Cardona 6, Pablo 4, Belano 0.

Quarters: 30-32; 51-48; 79-65; 102-90

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 118—Gonzales 18, Seigle 15, Ildefonso 13, Hontiveros 12, Racela 12, Tenorio 11, Adducul 11, Calaguio 9, Peña 8, Wilson 6, Espinas 3.

AIR21 102—Santos 23, David 16, Avenido 16, R. De Ocampo 15, Y. De Ocampo 8, Se 8, Tubid 7, Arboleda 7, Telan 4, Canaleta 3, Dimaunahan 3, Sotto 0.

Quarters: 30-24, 56-44, 90-67, 118-100

Kings take on Aces, eye new streak

JONG UICHICO SWEARS THAT HIS BARANgay Ginebra squad is not out of a slump—because the Gin Kings were never in one to begin with.

"We lost to two tough teams and winning (on Thursday) does not really mean that we're back," Uichico told the INQUIRER. "We never left. We were never on a slump. We just lost two games to two tough teams."

Tonight, Uichico and his Kings will try to start working on another winning streak, when they take the Araneta Coliseum hardwood the heavy favorites against the crippled Alaska Aces in the 6:35 p.m. elimination round game of the PBA Philippine Cup.

Running second behind Sta. Lucia, which was playing Talk 'N Text in a sortie in San Fernando, Pampanga, at presstime, the Kings will be coming off a 102-75 demolition of Coca-Cola in La Union on Thursday which snapped a two-game slide.

And whether Uichico admits it or not, the form his Kings showed on Thursday was exactly what the pre-tournament hype told of his team, which is being tipped to rule this tournament after a blockbuster trade a couple of months back.

"The players worked hard and they like winning," Uichico said. "We intend to keep on winning and working hard to prepare for the strong teams (in the tournament)."

Newcomer Welcoat and Coca-Cola try to bounce back from losses the last time around when they tangle in the curtain-raiser at 4:05 p.m.

The Dragons gave Red Bull a run for its money before bowing, 77-80, on Friday, and if Welcoat flashes the same game and the same drive against the Tigers, odds are that the rookie squad could pick up another win.

At 2-4 at the moment, Welcoat will actually be shooting to repeat an 85-75 victory over Coca-Cola, the first scalp the Dragons claimed in their short PBA existence. *Musong R. Castillo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	4	1
Ginebra	4	2
Talk 'N Text	4	2
Red Bull	4	2
Purefoods	4	3
San Miguel	3	3
Air21	2	3
Coca-Cola	2	4
Alaska	1	5

GAMES TODAY

(*Araneta Coliseum*)

4:05 p.m.—Welcoat vs Coca-Cola

6:35 p.m.—Alaska vs Barangay Ginebra

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Bad feng shui or poor health?

NBI director's office still unoccupied after Wycoco's death

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ALMOST A YEAR AFTER REYnaldo Wycoco—one of the best known directors of the National Bureau of Investigation—died of a stroke, his office still remains unoccupied.

MANTARING

WYCOCO

The bureau's present chief, Nestor Mantaring, has decided to convert the director's office at the third floor of the NBI headquarters in Manila into a museum.

"Nothing is final yet," Mantaring told the INQUIRER. "But as of now, there is a big chance that we will be pushing through with the plan of turning the Office of the Director into a museum."

Mantaring, who served as assistant director during Wycoco's administration, had said in an interview last year that the deaths of four of his predecessors "were merely coincidental." Wycoco was the fourth NBI chief—after Antonio Aragon, Santiago Toledo and Federico Opinion Jr.—to die while in office.

Still, Mantaring had the room inspected by feng shui experts earlier this month to help him decide if transferring there would be a good idea.

"At least two feng shui experts who took a look at the room had different opinions...one of them told me that she could feel negative vibrations emanating from the place," the NBI director disclosed.

According to an NBI employee who has worked for several bureau directors since the time of Alfredo Lim, most of the NBI chiefs, including the four deceased directors, had also sought the opinion of feng shui experts on the way furniture inside the director's office was arranged.

The employee said the past bureau chiefs had wanted to ensure that the office would bring them good luck.

Ironically, both Wycoco and Aragon died after presiding over a meeting inside the room.

Aragon collapsed during a meeting with NBI officials working on the Vizconde massacre case on June 22, 1995. He complained of chest pains.

A diabetic, Aragon died the next morning at the age of 64. His children said he had been suffering from a heart condition for eight years.

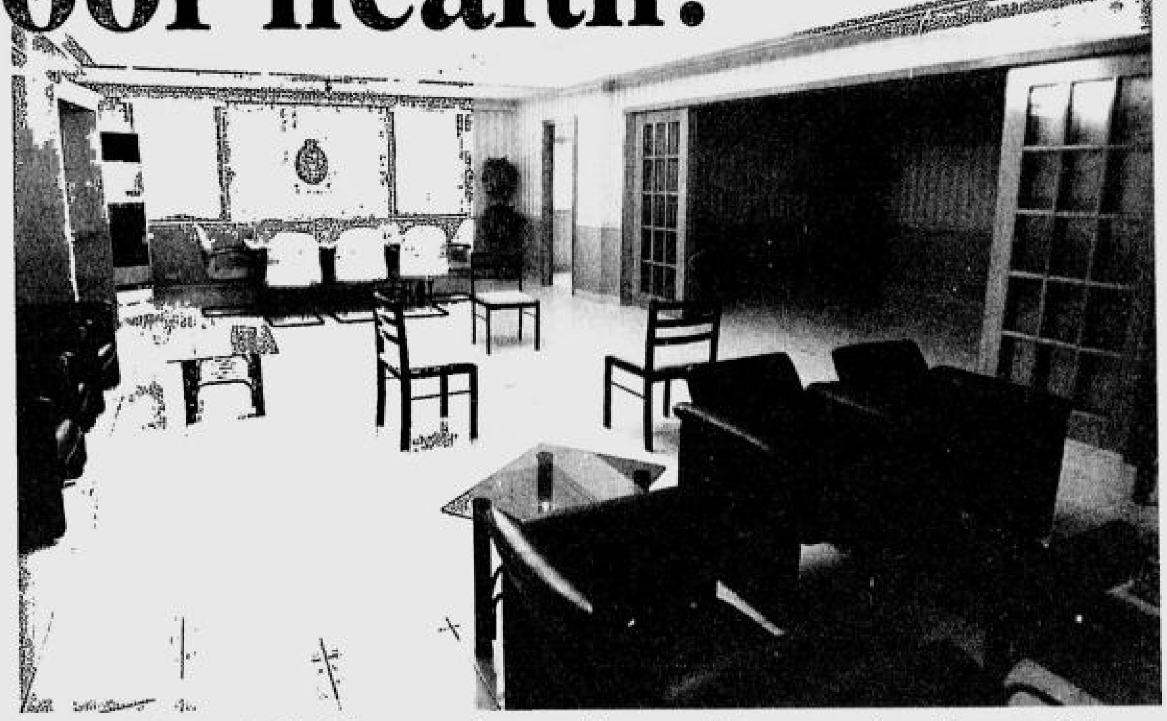
Toledo, on the other hand, died of an enlarged heart and acute pulmonary edema, a form of cardiac arrest, on May 1, 1999.

He suffered a heart attack on his birthday in his home in Quezon City and died a few hours later at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. He was supposed to retire on the day he died, but former President Joseph Estrada had extended his term for two months, saying it was his "birthday gift" to the late director.

Opinion died on Dec. 15, 2000 of kidney failure and diabetes at the National Kidney Institute. He was 62.

But there is also the possibility that the tremendous responsibility that goes with the post may have aggravated the health of the four NBI directors.

Until his death, Opinion was worried about his job, his wife had said shortly after his death. Mantaring had also said that Wycoco was overwhelmed by the huge workload that greeted him on his first day in office.


IS THE NBI director's office lying on top of a geopathic stress point—a source of negative rays which could cause illness, even death?
REM ZAMORA

"He even told me that all those duties and responsibilities may have caused the deaths of the three previous directors," Mantaring recalled in an earlier interview.

Employees at the bureau have talked about strange occurrences inside the director's office.

One attested to having seen peculiar shadows on the tiles while mopping the floor and feeling cold air on his face.

"But I did not feel afraid, somehow I knew that what I saw or felt was nothing to be scared of," the employee recalled.

Another employee said a couple of floor tiles suddenly moved while members of a television production team were shooting a TV program with some NBI personnel.

"It was spooky because there was no ongoing construction below that could have resulted in the sudden shifting of the tiles," the employee added.

Paranormal expert and Inquirer columnist Jaime Licauco, in his Jan. 3, 2006 column (Inner Awareness), had explained that feng shui did not consider geopathic stress—negative rays coming from beneath the ground where a house or office was located.

"If a person happens to hold office or sleep on top of a geopathic stress point, that person is likely to get sick, become accident-prone or emotionally unstable. Some suffer the ultimate fate of death," Licauco said in his column.

The paranormal expert also said that geopathic stress has been studied scientifically and proven to cause negative effects, "not only on human beings, but also on plants and animals."

"Perhaps that is what is causing all those deaths at the NBI and not because the place is jinxed," Licauco concluded.

In the meantime, Mantaring has opted to stay in the office he has occupied since his appointment as assistant director of the bureau a few years ago.

"*Wala namang mawawala kung maniniwala ka* (You would lose nothing if you believe in what the feng shui experts say)," he said.

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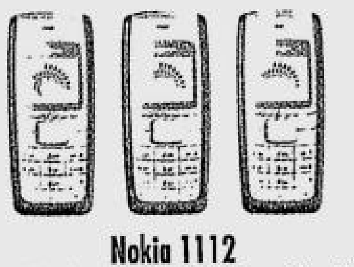

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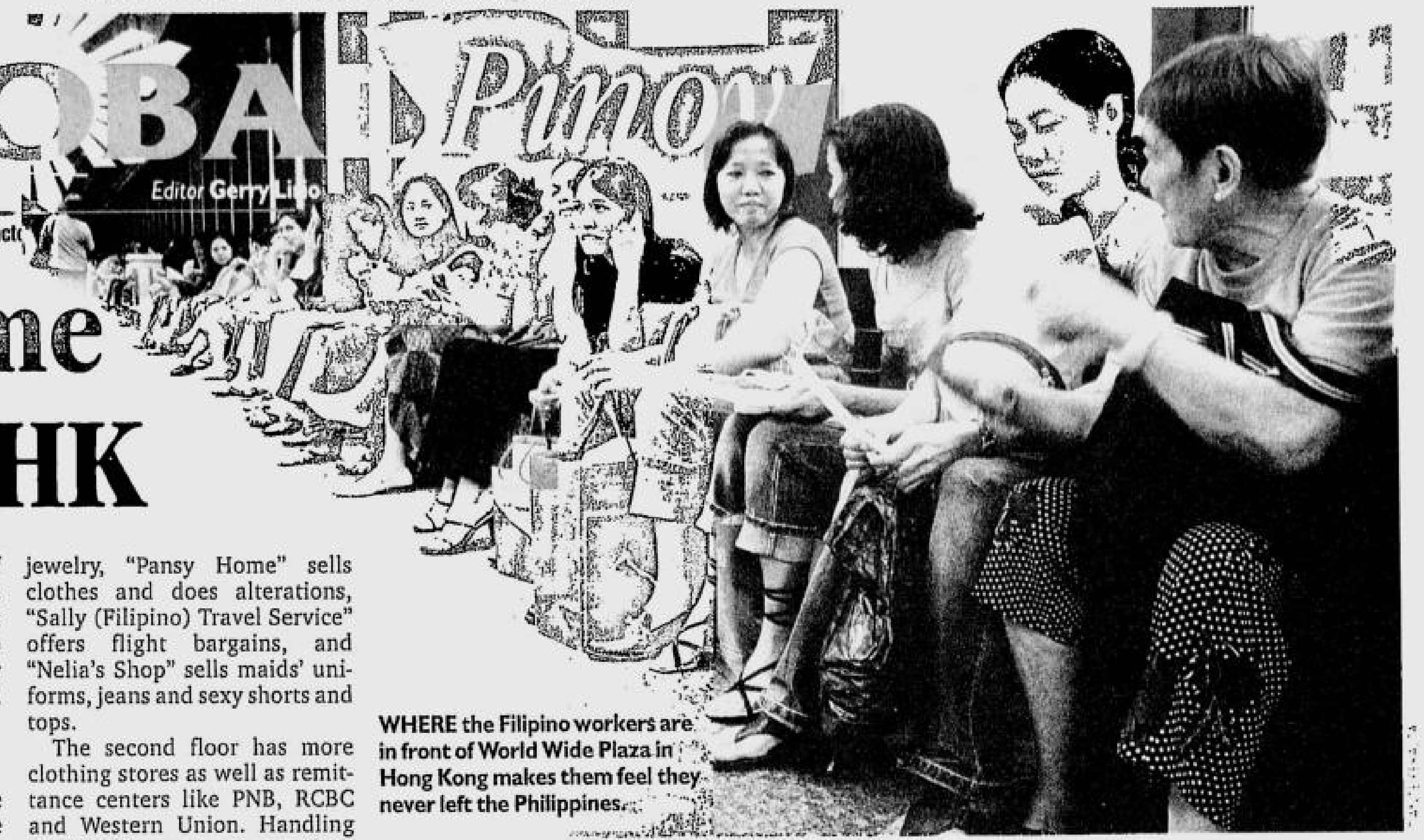


This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in fact

A piece of home in downtown HK

By Isabel T. Escoda
Contributor

FILIPINOS WHO SET FOOT IN World Wide Plaza in Hong Kong's Central district will feel like they've never left home.

The building, which is bounded on two sides by Des Voeux Road and Pedder Street, stands in stark contrast to the sleek Giorgio Armani building which takes up a whole block right across it. "World Wide," as it's simply known by Pinoys who use it as a meeting place—"*Magkita tayo sa World Wide* (Let's meet at World Wide"— is adjacent to the refurbished Landmark building, with its translucent walls and flashy lighting, that houses the plush new Louis Vuitton shop frequented not just by Hong Kong's elite, but also by Japanese and South Korean big spenders.

Like a Manila mall

World Wide's shopping area, which occupies four floors of a building of over 20 storeys, is a longtime institution catering to migrant workers with its low-priced goods. The building's owners probably didn't originally planned on it being a low-market area, since it's in Hong Kong's Central district which has among the highest rentals in Asia. It's possible that a canny entrepreneur persuaded them to offer reasonable rents for those first four floors when the construction of the building was completed.

Chattering Pinays

Ascending on World Wide's escalator to the first floor (British style, the ground floor isn't called the first floor but ground floor), one finds shops that may just as well be in some Manila mall. Lined up on the left side are money-changers dominated by "Franki's Exchange" which does a brisk trade, particularly on weekends. Crowds of chattering Pinays can often be seen hunkering down against the outer walls (there are no seats available) counting their money or using their cell phones.

'Bisacol' sikat express

Turning right to enter the glass doors, the first shop one encounters displays posters of a Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual film, as well as Vic Sotto and Kristine Hermosa in "Enteng Kabisote 2." Inside the store, one finds, besides videos, Manila movie magazines, newspapers and perfumes like "Dream Love 1000" (regularly advertised in the popular monthly Pinoy newspaper "Hong Kong News" as guaranteed to attract handsome Western men).

The other shops also vie for custom from the Pinays—"Silver Creations" displays flashy jewelry, "Pansy Home" sells clothes and does alterations, "Sally (Filipino) Travel Service" offers flight bargains, and "Nelia's Shop" sells maids' uniforms, jeans and sexy shorts and tops.

The second floor has more clothing stores as well as remittance centers like PNB, RCBC and Western Union. Handling the Balikbayan trade are "LBS Haring Padala" and "Jolly-B Box Express" (not to be confused with the Jollibee restaurant that's at street level around the corner from World Wide). The "Bisacol Sikat Express" (which probably has Visayan and Bicolano owners) displays "Canada Passport" in bold letters on its signboard.

Sari-sari store ambiance

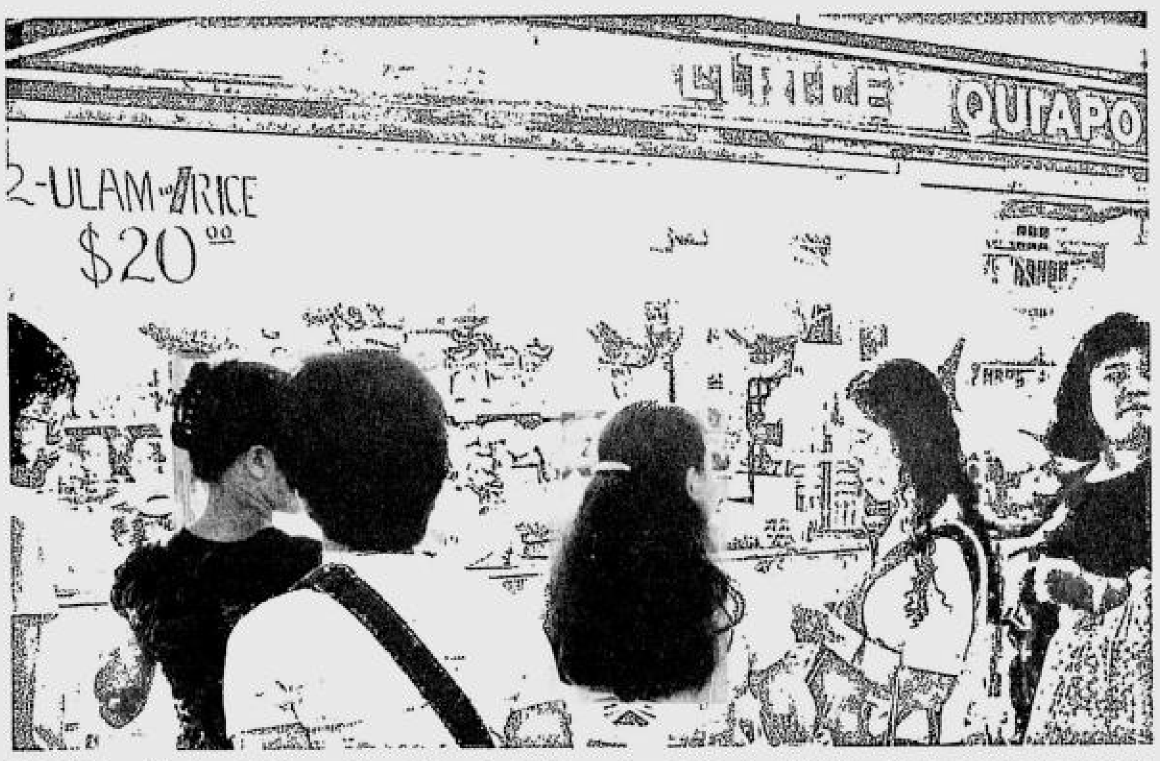
The *sari-sari* atmosphere extends to the food counters on several corners of World Wide's floors, selling slices of *bibingka* and *puto*, *chicharon* and potato chips, red eggs, *polvoron* and *sampalok* candy—all types of comfort food for nostalgia-seeking Pinays on their days off from the weekly grind.

WHERE the Filipino workers are in front of World Wide Plaza in Hong Kong makes them feel they never left the Philippines.

Little Divisoria

Going the rounds, one invariably hears karaoke music like "I believe" blaring in the background. Pinoys hover around the food counters, wolfing down pancit, adobo, rice, *dinuguan*, *pinakbet* and *halo-halo* out of styrofoam boxes while standing around (stools are in short supply) at "Little Quiapo, "Wallyson Sari-Sari Store," "Fiesta Mart" or "Tindahan ni Mang Ambo." The latter has his main eatery in the Wanchai district, which is a hole in the wall on Lockhart Street offering *turo-turo* native food to the Pinoy community. With its lackluster signage, unkempt tables and grimy menus, it's definitely down-market and is patronized mainly by the domestics. Any adventurous non-Pinoys wanting to sample the ethnic food would probably be those who don't mind eating in roadside stalls in developing countries.

It seems a pity that Hong Kong's largest foreign community does not have a better restaurant (as do the Thai, Indian and Indonesian communities) for Hong Kong locals and expatriates to patronize. The Cinta Restaurant in Wanchai has Pinoy food in its menu, but it mainly specializes in Thai, Indonesian and Malay cuisine, all of which are considered tastier and more exotic.



LOOKS familiar, but this is not Plaza Miranda; It's Hong Kong's Central District which nevertheless serves Filipino food, like no other.

DANTE PERALTA

Fiesta atmosphere

My favorite store at World Wide is "Little Divisoria," even though it has a rather grumpy elderly seller. Flown in weekly from Manila are fresh vegetables like *sigarilyas* and *saluyot*, green mangoes, avocados, *suman* and much else. Though my mouth waters, I've resisted buying the peeled *santol* steeped in a large jar of water, preferring to buy the unpeeled fruit (fearing, perhaps unfairly, that the peeler forgot to wash her hands and that the water is polluted).

In the section where "Pilipino Enterprises," "Fiesta Mart," "Pilipinas Travel Club" and "Hoi Yue Philippine Products" advertise their services are "Thousand Island Mining Company" and the "Mactan Island Memorial Garden (Marigodon, Lapulapu City, Cebu)" with their more up-market facades. Not too many clients seem to go to this latter shop, perhaps because most migrant workers can't afford memorial plans—or would rather not think of death in the midst of teeming Hong Kong.

Belly to belly shopping

A homesick Pinoy wanting to combat the blues should go to World Wide on Sundays. It's a trip one will love or hate. If one dislikes mobs, one should stay away. If one enjoys rubbing elbows (and other parts) with compatriots, one should go.

The atmosphere, when I recently went to buy avocadoes at Little Divisoria, made me think of the lyrics of a song from my youth—the Kingston Trio's "Back to back, belly to belly ... but I've done that already ..."

The throng was such that it felt like downtown Quiapo during the Black Nazarene festival—a unique experience that made me think I'd never left home.

He made millions out of 'balikbayan' boxes in Australia

By Martin Andanar
Contributor

IT WAS 1987 WHEN PABLO TAGLE, A NAtive of El Nido, Palawan, became convinced that the future of his family in the Philippines became dimmer and dimmer. Faced with political uncertainties, Pablo, or Boy to his friends, packed his clothes, withdrew his savings of P160,000 pesos, and brought his wife and two children to Sydney, Australia.

He had actually been given three opportunities to leave the Philippines. The first time was in 1972. "I was invited by my sister to Australia." The second was in 1976 when he had the chance to migrate to the United States. He ignored both opportunities. "I was idealistic and naive then," he says.

But in 1987, when coup attempts began troubling the administration of President Corazon Aquino, he felt the country's and his future were going nowhere. "I just had to leave when the third one knocked on my door."

Boy left a promising marketing career in a pharmaceutical company in Manila, then swallowed his pride and worked menial jobs in Sydney. He began working as a laborer in a soda and juice warehouse and later as a letter-sorter in the Australian Post Office.

First job

It was really tough and heart breaking. "I had to work from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. standing in the warehouse," he says. Like most educated Filipinos who migrated, he faced the reality that not all Philippine college degrees are recognized in Australia. "So a laborer's work was the only answer and it became so frustrating considering the job I had in the Philippines."

Boy's first break came in 1990 when his friend Mario Tan, a leading remittance businessman in Manila, offered him to be his business partner in Sydney. Tan had asked him to help him put a remittance center Down Under.

Birth of an OFW firm

"In the beginning, clients came few and far between," he says. "I would wake up in the wee hours of the morning answering phone calls of friends working in shifts who wanted to remit money to their families back home."

His Filipino clients would soon inquire if he offered *balikbayan* box services.

Boy saw the opportunity and grabbed it at once. Thus, the BM Express International was born. BM stands for Mario and Boy. It was a major success. Until then, there was only one company doing the *balikbayan* box business then and the service was poor since Filipinos had to bring the boxes to the store themselves. "So I offered to pick up the boxes in their homes using my old station wagon," he says.

Little did he know he would be bombarded by phone calls from Filipinos he didn't even know all wanting their *balikbayan* boxes picked up.

Heeding the call for a more efficient service, Boy organized the first network of *balikbayan* boxes drop off points in the entire city of Sydney, a first from an enterprising new Filipino kid on the block.

From 200 kilos of *balikbayan* boxes per week in 1992, Boy and his wife Connie would soon face an insurmountable 3,000 kilos of *balikbayan* boxes per week.

Palawan beach resort

"At first officials of the airline carrier wouldn't give a cent to notice me," he says. "But they changed their mind when I was offering 3,000 kilos." Soon his boss at the post office would complain about his habitual absences. His neighbors would also complain of the many boxes stored in front of their houses.

"We eventually had to buy a warehouse on Wiltshire Street and quit our jobs to work on the boxes full time," he says.

BM Express International is now a household name not only in New South Wales but also in South Australia, Queensland, Adelaide and Victoria. It has also evolved into several branches of groceries in New South Wales, importation, food processing and packaging business.

Boy now says that majority of Filipino-Australian households in Australia would have Filipino-made products, among them noodles, corned beef, *bagoong*, *balut*, *kawali* and even *walis tingting*, that are either imported, processed or packaged by BM International Express.

PABLO TAGLE AND WIFE CONNIE IN SYDNEY, 2004: Times have changed

Now the Tagle family is thinking of franchising its businesses to Filipino-Australians.

In 2000, the Filipino Australian Business Association named Boy as the top businessman of New South Wales. *"Ang sikreto ko ay sipag, katapatan at ang pagiging patas sa kapwa,"* he tells the INQUIRER.

Despite his success Down Under, the 59-year-old Boy remains a true Filipino at heart. While his children, Tristan and Trisha, operate the business in Australia, Boy devotes most of his time in the Philippines creating employment by establishing a food processing and packaging plant in Antipolo, developing a resort he calls the BM Lamuro in El Nido and setting up a school for the needy natives of his hometown El Nido, Palawan.

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Iran starts up second nuclear fuel network

TEHRAN—IRAN HAS STARTED enriching uranium in a second experimental network of centrifuges, Iran's student news agency Isna said on Friday, expanding a program which the West fears is intended to make nuclear bombs.

Isna quoted an "informed source" as saying "the injection of gas was carried out" in the past week. "We have obtained the product of the second cascade," the source said.

UF-6 gas, converted from uranium ore, is injected into cylindrical centrifuges which spin at supersonic speeds to heighten the product's fissile content. Enrichment can yield fuel for power plants or, ultimately, material for atomic bombs.

Iran, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, says its atomic program aims to meet energy needs. But it has failed to convince world powers, who are threatening UN sanctions after Tehran failed to heed a UN demand to halt enrichment work.

Iran is running two test cascades of 164 interlinked centrifuges each. It would need thousands running nonstop for months to yield enough high-enriched uranium for one atom bomb.

Analysts say Iran is at least three years away from that point.

US President George W. Bush said in Washington he was aware of "speculation" that Iran had started enriching uranium in a second cascade (interlinked network) of centrifuges.

"Whether they doubled it or not, the idea of Iran having a nuclear weapon is unacceptable," Bush said.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said it was too early to speak about Iran being able to produce weapons-grade uranium, and that he "did not share the concerns about this."

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors confirmed Iran enriched token amounts of uranium with an initial pilot cascade in April, although it appears to have more often vacuum-tested them without UF6 inside.

France's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jean-Baptiste Mattei said the Isna report raised international concern about the growth of Iran's capacity to produce fissile material.

"The priority is to move towards the negotiation of a Security Council resolution," Mattei told reporters in Paris.

A British government source said: "The fact that they've now started to feed stuff through the centrifuge isn't going to shock anyone. But it will demonstrate further Iranian intransigence and that will all be taken in the round."

Iran now faces possible sanctions for failing to shelve its enrichment project, as demanded by the UN Security Council. A draft sanctions resolution has been drawn up by European states but Russia has expressed misgivings about the proposal. Reuters

AND THE BULL WINS Heath Shrimp of Australia gets thrown from "Super Cool" during the Professional Bull Riders World Finals Oct. 27 at Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. GETTY IMAGES/AFP

Control of US Senate hinges on 4 races

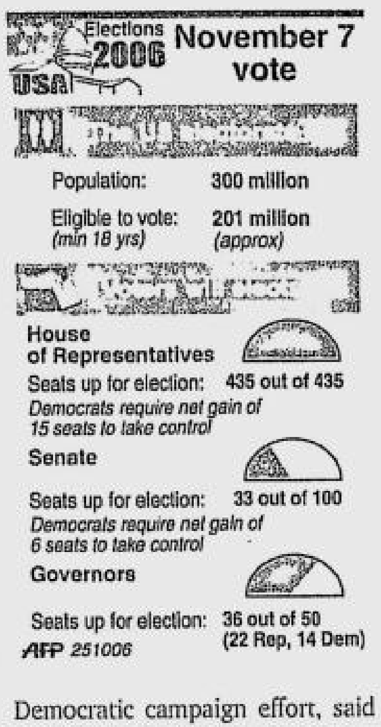
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—REPUBLican Sen. George Allen hoped all along his 2006 reelection campaign would draw national attention, but probably not the attention it is gaining now as one of the races that could tip control of the Senate to Democrats.

Allen, who had presidential ambitions, is attempting to hold off Democratic challenger Jim Webb in one of four races in the Nov. 7 congressional elections that strategists from both parties say will likely settle the overall battle for Senate control. His party recently felt obliged to pay for $1.4 million in television ads to safeguard a seat long thought safe.

In a reflection of the stakes, the two parties will spend more than $20 million combined on television in the campaign's final two weeks in Tennessee, Missouri, New Jersey and Virginia, a lineup that could not have been forecast even a few weeks ago.

"A year ago the focus was on the more traditionally competitive states like Pennsylvania and Ohio," Sen. Chuck Schumer, head of the Democratic campaign effort, said recently, referring to two races where Democrats appear likeliest to defeat Republican incumbents.

"It is a tougher (election) cycle for Republicans," agreed Sen. Elizabeth Dole, head of the Republican campaign arm.



Democrats must gain six seats to win control, and they have strong leads in Rhode Island and Montana as well as Pennsylvania and Ohio. Thirty-three seats in the 100-member Senate are up for a vote.

Strategists in both parties calculated long ago that Missouri's race would be close, with Democratic state auditor Claire McCaskill challenging first-term Republican Sen. Jim Talent. With a statewide referendum on stem cell research also on the ballot, it has also been clear for months that the issue would figure prominently. Talent opposes the expansion of federally funded efforts in a field that scientists say holds promise for the treatment of many diseases.

Controversy flared after McCaskill's campaign aired a television commercial in which actor Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, exhibited the uncontrollable shaking that is symptomatic of the illness.

"They say all politics is local, but it's not always the case. What you do in Missouri matters to millions of Americans—Americans like me," Fox says in the ad.

Tennessee seemed an unlikely place for a pivotal race, but Republican strategists say Democratic Congressman Harold Ford Jr., hoping to become the first black elected to the Senate from the South since the aftermath of the US Civil War of 1861-65, has proven to be an excellent candidate.

The Republican, former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker, who is white, stumbled after winning his nomination.

The contest has grown closer in the weeks since, and strategists in both parties say the outcome may ultimately hinge on race.

The issue exploded into public view in recent days when a Republican Party-financed ad showed a white woman saying she had met Ford at a Playboy Club party. The commercial ends with the woman, her bare shoulders visible, looking into the camera and whispering, "Harold, call me."

The commercial does not mention that Ford is black, but it drew strong criticism from Democrats and their allies who said it evoked deep-seated prejudices about interracial dating. *AP*

$10-M settlement reached in clergy sex abuse case

LOS ANGELES—THE ARCHDIOcese of Los Angeles and a Roman Catholic religious order will pay $10 million to several people to settle allegations of clergy sexual abuse, lawyers for those involved in the cases said.

The Carmelite order will pay most of the settlement to seven people, including two who said they were sexually molested at a high school, a lawyer for that province of the Carmelite order said Friday. The archdiocese will contribute about 5 percent.

"We were glad to be able to work out a settlement, and we hope this brings peace to the people who are involved," said lawyer Jim Geoly, representing the province of Carmelites involved in the lawsuit.

"We're satisfied with the archdiocese's participation. These particular claims involved accusations against Carmelites serving in Carmelite institutions," he said.

The defendants in the case included Dominic Savino, a Carmelite priest, who spent several years as a teacher and administrator at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, and John Knoernschild, a former principal at the school, Geoly said.

Venus Soltan, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs, said the amount awarded in each case averaged $1.4 million.

The seven Carmelite cases are dwarfed by more than 560 unresolved cases by people who claim they were abused by Catholic priests in Southern California over the last 70 years. That litigation has been pending for years. *AP*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Cheney accused of backing water torture

WASHINGTON—VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY said on Friday he was not referring to "water boarding" or any interrogation technique in a radio interview, after critics accused him of endorsing simulated drowning by agreeing that a "dunk in water" for terrorism suspects might be useful.

His wife Lynne and President George W. Bush defended his comments to the radio station after human rights groups criticized him as approving "water boarding," a technique the groups consider torture.

The vice president was asked on Tuesday by a conservative radio host from Fargo, North Dakota: "Would you agree a dunk in water is a no-brainer if it can save lives?"

"Well, it's a no-brainer for me," replied Cheney as part of a campaign by Republicans to keep national security on the minds of voters ahead of Nov. 7 congressional elections.

Returning from a day trip to Missouri and South Carolina on Friday, Cheney told reporters on board his plane no one used the term "water boarding" in the radio interview and he had not been discussing any specific technique.

"I don't talk about techniques. I wouldn't. I have said that the interrogation program for a select number of detainees is very important. It has been I think one of the most valuable intelligence programs that we have," Cheney said.

Earlier, his wife Lynne Cheney leaped to his defense. "This is complete distortion. He didn't say anything of the kind," she said.

"This country doesn't torture. We're not going to torture.

We will interrogate people we pick up off the battlefield to determine whether or not they've got information that will be helpful to protect the country," Bush told reporters.

Tom Malinowski, Washington advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, said Cheney's comments could backfire on Americans. "If Iran or Syria detained an American, Cheney is saying that it would be perfectly fine for them to hold that American's head under water until he nearly drowns, if that's what they think they need to do to save Iranian or Syrian lives."

US interrogation techniques came under scrutiny after evidence emerged of detainee abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan, and after the revelation last year that the CIA ran secret prisons outside the United States for terrorism suspects. Reuters

CHENEY

WORLDBRIEFS

2 buses torched as France marks riots anniversary

CLICHY-SOUS-BOIS, France—Armed men set fire to two buses in a rundown Paris suburb on Friday, the first anniversary of the start of the worst riots in the French capital in nearly 40 years. A police source said two hooded men boarded one bus in front of a train station in the Seine-Saint-Denis suburb in the early evening and ordered about 15 passengers and the driver to get off before setting it alight. The second bus was attacked in a similar way by two armed men in another part of the suburb, a local official said. At least five buses have been attacked in poor suburbs around the capital since Sunday and police have said violence could spiral out of control once again. Four thousand extra police were deployed around France on Friday evening. Tensions remain high in France's rundown suburbs, where poor job prospects, racial discrimination, a widespread sense of alienation from mainstream society and perceived hostile policing touched off the wave of violence 12 months ago. In the first six months of 2006, some 21,000 cars were burned and 2,882 attacks recorded against the police, fire and ambulance services.

Reuters

Pinochet charged in secret jail deaths

PINOCHET

SANTIAGO—Former dictator Augusto Pinochet was charged Friday with the alleged murders of inmates in an infamous secret jail where Chile's current president, Michelle Bachelet, was tortured during his 1973-1990 iron rule. Judge Alejandro Solis charged that Pinochet was responsible in 36 cases of "forced disappearances," a murder and 23 cases of torture committed in the jail. The human rights case involves tortures allegedly committed at Villa Grimaldi, a secret jail where Bachelet and her mother were tortured. More than 4,500 inmates passed through its doors, 250 of whom were supposedly murdered. Meanwhile, another Chilean judge vowed Friday to probe the authenticity of documents showing Pinochet had stashed nine tons of gold in Hong Kong at HSBC bank, which maintains the documents are false. Pinochet, 90, has lost the immunity he enjoyed as a former de facto ruler of Chile on several occasions, but has never stood trial for any of the 3,000 cases of deaths and torture committed, according to an official count. Pinochet is also under investigation for alleged tax evasion and fraud following the discovery of previously undeclared bank accounts in the United States. He is under house arrest. Villa Grimaldi, the name of a former mansion in Santiago, was a torture center from 1973 until 1978 run by Pinochet's feared secret police, DIN.

AFP

Marine 98th US casualty this month in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A US Marine has been killed in action in western Iraq, the military announced Saturday, bringing the number of American dead this month to 98. "One Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 died Friday from injuries sustained due to enemy action while operating in Al Anbar province," a statement said, without giving further details. Anbar is the heartland of the Sunni insurgency in Iraq and includes the restive cities of Fallujah and Ramadi. At least 2,809 members of US forces have now been killed or died accidentally in the Iraq campaign since the March 2003 invasion, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures.

AFP

$500,000 reward for arrest of arsonist

BEAUMONT, California—As flames roared through the canyons of Southern California, authorities increased the reward to $500,000 for the arrest of the arsonist responsible for the deaths of four firefighters in the nation's worst such tragedy in five years. A fifth firefighter lay in grave condition with burns over 90 percent of his body. Firefighters on Friday labored through thick smoke as curtains of wind-whipped orange flame pushed through uninhabited brushland about 145 km east of Los Angeles. The blaze that broke out Thursday destroyed about 10 structures, including homes, forced 700 people to flee, and flushed coyotes and other wildlife into the open. Investigators have not said how they know the 159-sq-km blaze was arson, how it was set, or why. But they said those responsible could face murder charges.

AP

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Little David becomes a Goliath/A28

Another PSC revamp shapes up

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A TOP LEVEL REVAMP IS IN the offing yet again in the Philippine Sports Commission.

A reliable source inside the commission confirmed that PSC chair Butch Ramirez and three of his four commissioners are on the way out right after the Asian Games in Doha this December.

The source added that Ramirez himself knew of the impending shakeup and had already announced that he is on his way out whatever happens in the Asian Games, where he is the Chief of Mission of the Philippine delegation.

At the same time, Ramirez, the source pointed out, had expressed his gratitude to President Macapagal-Arroyo for the opportunity given him to serve as PSC chair.

Being floated this early as the possible choice as the PSC's eighth chair since the agency's creation in 1990 are Manila Youth Council and presidential assistant on youth and sports Ali Atienza, ex-commissioner and currently Department of Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Ray Roquero and incumbent commissioner Richie Garcia.

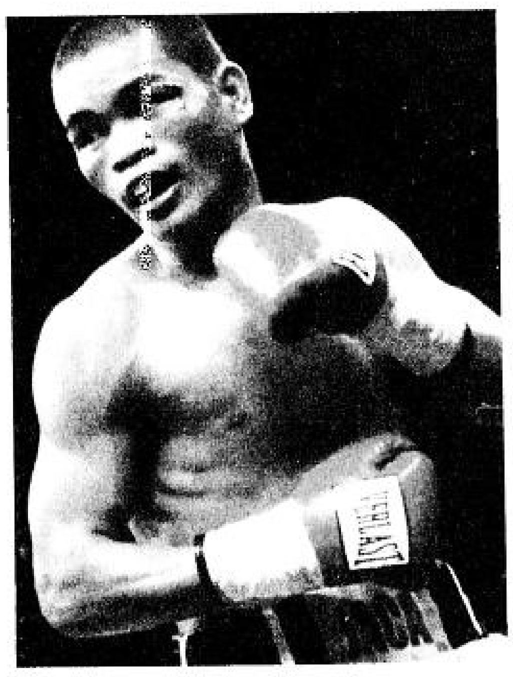
Ramirez, a sportsman from Davao who joined the PSC as a commissioner in 1999, became the officer in charge of the PSC in January 2005 after Eric Buhain was transferred to the Games and Amusements Board.

He became a full-fledged PSC chair several months later. Other sources said the Malacañang order for a reshuffle may even be issued anytime now but to take effect after the Asian Games.

Atienza is a strong contender for PSC chair with his father Lito, the Manila Mayor, among the administration's top backers.

Garcia is being supported by top GMA ally Rep. Monico Puentevella. He served as commissioner during the time of Butch Tuason and came back on board under Ramirez's helm.

Roquero served as commissioner in the early 90s and even acted as executive director of the agency under chair Aparicio Mequi.



JACA: Ready to leave for US. EDWIN BACASMAS

Two world title fights in 'Grand Finale' card

TWO WORLD TITLE FIGHTS HAVE BEEN INcluded in the Nov. 18 "Grand Finale" card featuring the third Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales encounter at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

The much-awaited Omar Nino-Brian Viloria rematch for the WBC light flyweight crown has officially been included in the undercard with the Fil-Am Viloria expected to exact revenge against his Mexican tormentor.

With the WBO 140-lb title recently vacated by Miguel Cotto, Top Rank's Bob Arum was quick to arrange for the top two contenders to collide for the title.

WBO No. 1 "Mighty Mike" Arnaoutis and No. 2 Ricardo Torres will now tangle for the WBO junior welter title, thus becoming the third 12-rounder in the card.

Pacquiao-Morales is also set for 12 rounds with the WBC International super featherweight title of the Filipino boxing superstar on the line.

Arnaoutis, 17-0-1 with nine knockouts, hails from Athens, Greece, but lives and trains in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Torres is 29-1, with 27 KOs. He comes from Barranquilla, Colombia.

Meanwhile, Filipino Jimrex "The Executioner" Jaca gets another chance to take on WBO interim featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez on Nov. 25 in McAllen, Texas.

The bout was originally scheduled last Oct. 21, but was scrapped after Jaca's failure to secure a US visa.

Jaca was recently granted a P1 visa by the US embassy in Manila and said he is ready to leave for the US anytime. *Salven Lagumbay*

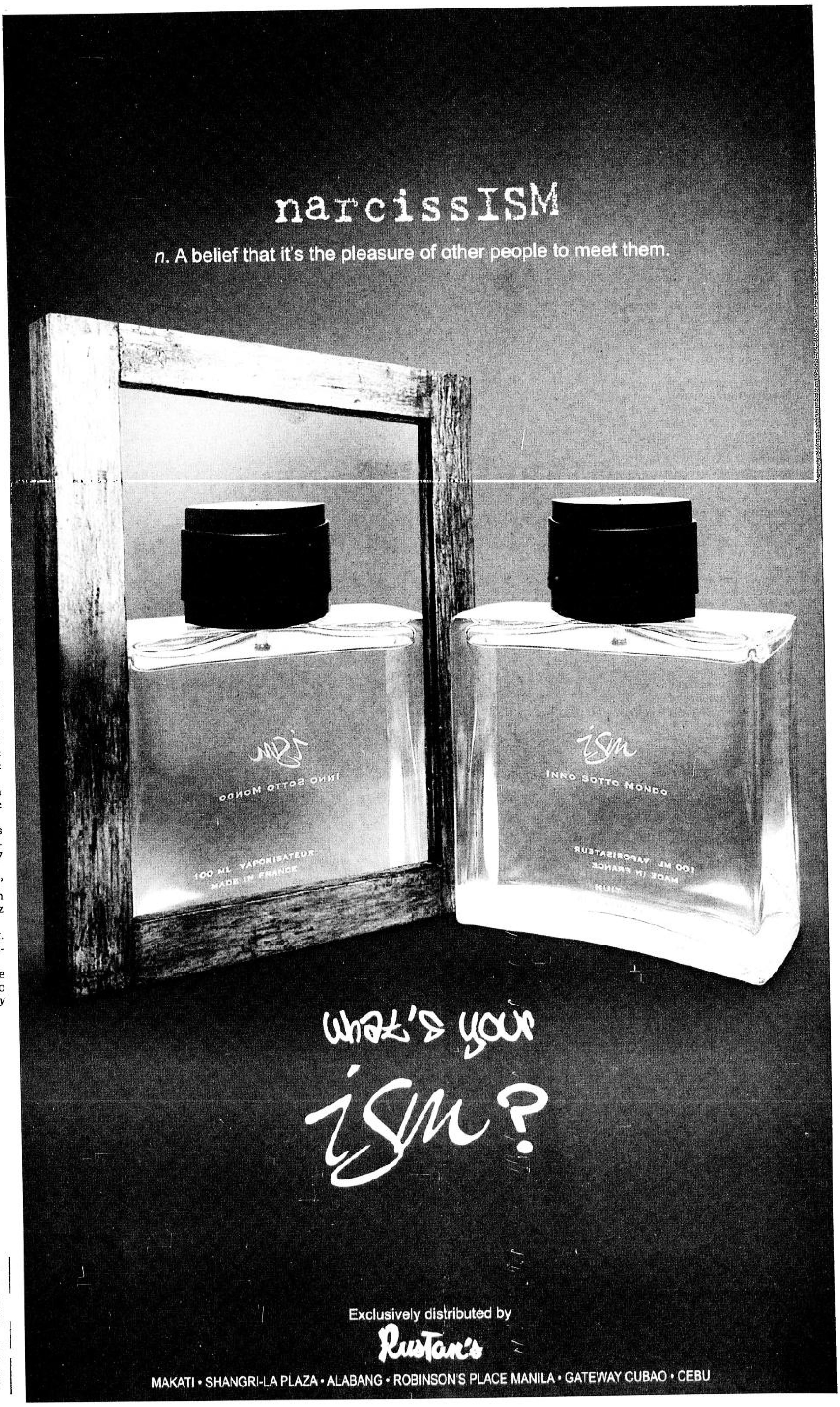
Miñoza slips with 2nd 74

HYOGO, JAPAN—FRANKIE MIÑOZA could do no better than a second straight two-over-par 74 in the third round Saturday and lost further ground in the Y120,000,000 (P50,400,000) ABC Championship here.

The 47-year-old Filipino star, who shot a 67 Thursday to move just a stroke off the lead, dropped into a six-way tie for 28th place with a 205 total, 10 behind new leader Hisayuki Sasaki of Japan.

Sasaki shot another 67 for a 205 total and a one-stroke lead over first-round leader YE Yang of Taiwan, who rallied with a 69. Halfway leader Azuma Yano of Japan fell to third at 207 after matching par 72 at the ABC Golf Club course here.

Miñoza floundered on the front nine with four bogeys but recovered somewhat on his trip coming home with birdies on the 11th and 13th holes. *Kyodo*



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C. Lhuillier, Mail and More keep modest targets

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEY'RE TEAMS BUILT AROUND THE RECENT PBL rookie and dispersal drafts.

So not surprisingly, guest teams Cebuana Lhuillier and Mail and More have kept their expectations modest. "We have to make do with the talent that we have, we're the last team to assemble," said Lhuillier coach Luigi Trillo.

Cebuana Lhuillier acquired UAAP Most Valuable Player Ken Bono from Montaña.

Mail and More also found a reliable big man in JR Quiñahan, Granny Goose's main threat in previous conferences. Montaña and Granny Goose released their players in the recent dispersal draft after filing a leave of absence in the Silver Cup, which tips off on Nov. 11.

"We're overlooked, but we like it that way," said Mail and More mentor Lawrence Chongson. "We're just low key, no fanfare, no promises."

Aside from Bono, Cebuana Lhuillier also enlisted Ateneo standouts Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona, Mapua top gunner Jofferson Gonzales and veterans Eric dela Cuesta, Emerson Oreta and Abby Santos.

"Even if we have highly touted players, this is a more physical league, there's more banging," said Trillo, the youngest coach in the league at 31.

Mail and More picked UAAP slam dunk champion Elmer Espiritu and Jorel Cañizares of the University of the East, Emilio Aguinaldo College star Ronjay Buenafe, Mapua's Jerby del Rosario and University of the Philippines' Nestor David.

"More than the talent, it's the desire that I'm looking for," said Chongson. "The UAAP and the NCAA just finished, and since most of them are collegiate players, we're expecting that everyone's still conditioned."

Chongson and Trillo hope that their young squads will overcome early tournament troubles.

"We're nobodies, but we love the underdog tag," said Chongson. "Hopefully we'll just surprise everyone." Both coaches also point out that time isn't on their side. With only two weeks left before the season fires off, Chongson has yet to finalize Mail and More's 15-man roster.

"Right now we have a pool of 21," he said. "Half are rookies in the PBL. But we'll be a pressing and running team. We want them to hustle, to disrupt the opponents' offense."

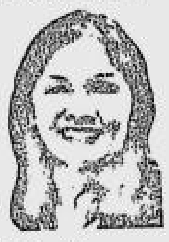
Trillo noted that team chemistry is still an issue for Cebuana Lhuillier, which only had a week of practice so far.

"We'll just try to be adaptable," he said. "We'll give Ken the ball, but we'll make sure we run as well. We want it balanced."

BONO

PBA broadcast innovations

IN HUDDLE


Beth Celis

FOR PBA ROOTER Danny Gonzales of Tondo, Manila, it's such a "pleasant surprise" to see Sta. Lucia on top of the current team standings.

"The Realtors are up there for a number of reasons," he observed: "Good chemistry, Kelly Williams and a reformed Alex Cabagnot."

By "reformed," Danny explained that Alex is more of a team player now unlike last season when he tended to ballhog.

"Last year *kasi parang naka-tapa*-ojo (blinders) *si* Alex. *Walang nakikita kundi yung* ring. *Bihirang pumasa. Nagbago na siya ngayon, kaya maganda ang resulta.*"

* * *

While SLR coach Alfrancis Chua is undeniably happy over the Realtors' 4-1 start this season, he chooses not to be too excited.

"I'm not excited *kasi marami pang laban.* I keep telling my players to work harder and not to think of the standings.

"I tell them we are where we are now because their hard work is paying off," Al said.

Al's greatest fear though, is injury.

"I keep praying that all my players stay healthy, *para kumpleto parati ang* lineup *namin.* For the past four years *kasi*, continuous *ang* injuries *sa* bench, *puro grabe pa.*"

* * *

Other PBA fans who called us on radio last Saturday agreed with Danny Gonzales' observation not only about top team Sta. Lucia, but Alaska as well, which is now untypically at the bottom of the heap.

According to the fans, Alaska is direly missing the services of key players Mike Cortez and Reynel Hugnatan who are both injured, reason why they are dead last, at the moment.

As of presstime, SLR was scheduled to play against Talk 'N Text in Pampanga. TnT shares second place with Red Bull and Ginebra at 4-2.

* * *

The fans who called in last Saturday also noted the innovations on the broadcast coverage of the PBA.

They wanted to know how many new faces are there in the panel, and if there was any who would be replaced.

ABC-5 program manager Winston de la Cruz said that while there may be additions in the panel, there are no subtractions of personalities.

For TV, the additions are Joel Banal, Charlie Cuna and Rado Dimalibot who's actually a *balik*-ABC-5, while the new faces on radio are former PBA cagers Leo Isaac and Jolly Escobar and Patricia Bermudez Hizon.

Winston said they are thinking of including Brod Pete in the telecast, perhaps to provide comic relief.

* * *

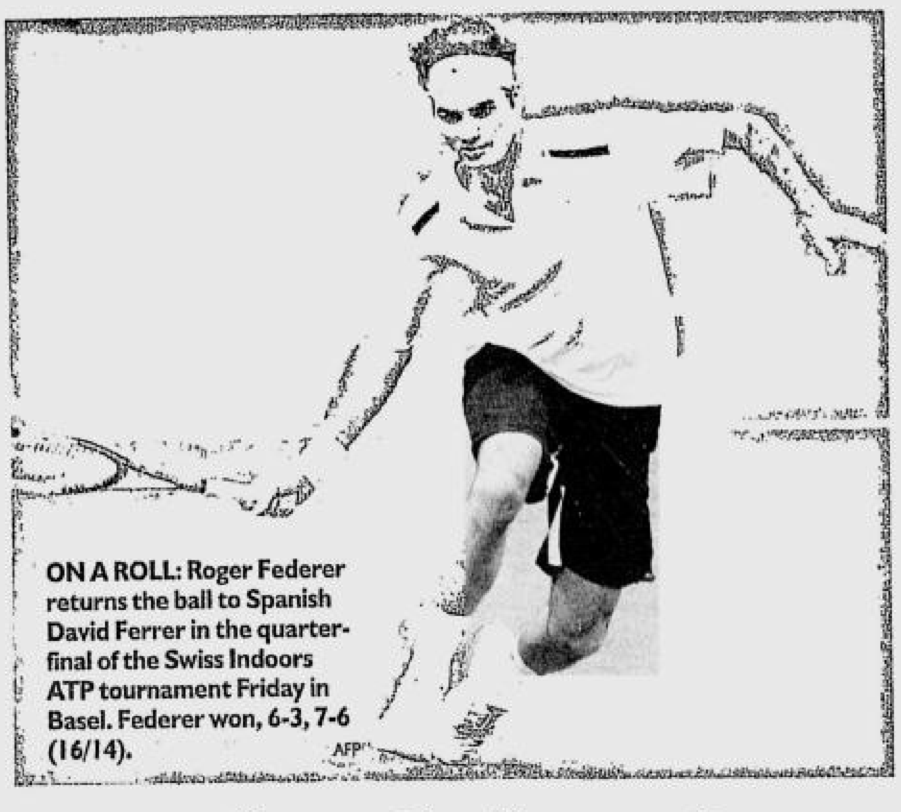
"The introduction of new faces is only a part of our total effort to achieve the 20/20 target set by PBA chairman Ricky Vargas and the PBA board. For ABC-5, the goal is to increase ratings by 20 percent," Winston disclosed, asking if I had noticed the other innovations.

"We have improved graphics, including visual effects. Also, we have been focusing on improving the substance of our coverage, reason why we got more game producers, several of them panelists and basketball players. We also got new female courtside reporters like Joy Delorey and Marga Vargas who, by the way, is the daughter-in-law of chairman Vargas."

So far, Winston said they are on target to achieving the 20/20 target.

* * *

HOOPVINE: Sports Vigilantes Teddy Reynoso and Elmer Sta. Maria are all-praise for Johnny Abarrientos who they said is still in good fighting shape. "*Kaya pang makipagsabayan, matibay pa ang* legs. Definitely, *angat siya sa mga kasabay niyang naglaro*... Teddy also noted the improvement of Richard del Rosario who has been elevated to the PBA broadcast panel. "He's getting better and better every time," Teddy said. Glad that SMC head honcho Danding Cojuangco has the time to watch the PBA games. Looks like he hasn't missed an SMB match this season.


ON A ROLL: Roger Federer returns the ball to Spanish David Ferrer in the quarterfinal of the Swiss Indoors ATP tournament Friday in Basel. Federer won, 6-3, 7-6 (16/14). AFP

NBL College Challenge Cup up

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines, spurred by the election of Sen. Jinggoy Estrada as its new president, hopes to revitalize its thrust of discovering and developing cage talents through the revival of the National Basketball League known as the NBL College Challenge Cup.

NBL president Christian Tan bared plans to launch the tournament on Nov. 11 to Dec. 10, tapping member schools with commercial back-up.

Among the prospective invitees are Philippine College of Criminology (PC-Cr), St. Jude College and Trinity University of Asia of CUSA, St. Claire College and University of Manila (UM) of NAASCU, New Era University of USCAA, Perpetual Help University of Laguna from NCAA-South, Angeles University of Pampanga from PISCUAA.

Tan said it will be a home-and-away tournament to revive interest in basketball in different cities through the support of local government units and corporate sponsors.

Golden double for Gen. Santos badminton ace

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A SHUTTLER FROM GEN. SANTOS CITY MANAGED TO STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT from Manila's impending overall victory yesterday by snaring two gold medals on the penultimate day of the 2nd Manila Youth Games national invitational at the San Andres Gym.

Samuel Dalago, one of only 19 delegates from GenSan, whipped Elmo Sese VII of Parañaque, 21-4, 21-11, for the boys' 17-under singles crown before teaming up with Aljun Valerio to drubRolly Goboy and Jake Fernandez Nazareth of Quezon City, 21-8, 21-11, for the doubles title.

The twins golds by the 17-year-old Dalago were the first two medals in the week-long meet for the Mindanao team. A Palaro veteran, Dalago is a computer engineering freshman at the Holy Trinity College in GenSan, which is popularly known as the hometown of Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao.

With a total of 50 gold medals on top of 37 silvers and 34 bronzes, Manila expects to complete its title romp with another rich harvest today in taekwondo.

Manila also scored in badminton through Lea Mangoba, who claimed the girls' 17-under singles championship after posting a 21-17, 21-10 victory over Ivy Rios of Muntinlupa.

Rios fought back in the mixed doubles when she and Romrome Macalacad edged Jesus Genata and Sheera Maine Manzano of Candon City, 23-21, 13-21, 21-17, for the title.

Nicola Gabriel Mendoza and Margaret Cayetano Lim gave Quezon City a gold after beating Mangoba and Jayvee Ann Ignacio, 21-11, 21-15, in girls' doubles.

Quezon City remained in second place overall with a 19-21-23 gold-silver-bronze tally, followed by Laguna Province which amassed 10-6-8. Baguio City (9-15-10), Muntinlupa City (7-12-13), Candon City (7-12-7) and Taguig City (5-4-8)

Meanwhile, Candon City's Rhealyn Pascua, the phenomenal barefoot jumper and sprinter, earned a scholarship grant from MYG chief organizer and Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza.

Gomez, Dimakiling near grandmaster result

INTERNATIONAL MASTER-ELECT John Paul Gomez and IM Oliver Dimakiling hurdled their respective matches to boost their Grandmaster title bids in the eighth and penultimate round of the III Calvia Chess Festival Friday in Mallorca, Spain.

The 20-year-old Gomez trounced GM Karen Movsziszian of Armenia while Dimakiling, 27, beat IM Marcin Dziuba of Poland to notch 5.5 points each and share 10th to 20th places.

Gomez and Dimakiling need to win or draw their final matches against GM Pons Francisco Vallejo of Spain and GM Michele Godena of Italy, respectively, to have a crack at the GM result.

DIMAKILING

Tying at 21st to 35th places were IM Jayson Gonzales (2418) of Quezon City and 13-year-old IM Wesley So with 5.0 points each.

Gonzales beat Spain's Arribas Vidal Alejand Gonzales while So drew with Swedish GM Pia Cramling.

Gonzales will face IM Thomas Rendle in the last round while So takes on IM Holden Hernandez.

IM Darwin Laylo bowed to GM Heberla Bartlomiej of Poland an remained at 4.5 points. Laylo meet Ali Ehsan of Spain in the last round

GM Friso Nijboer of the Nether lands stopped overnight solo leade GM Aleksa Strikovic of Serbia an Montenegro to grab the solo lea with 6.5 points. Strikovic was at 6. points with seven other GMs. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Rizal grabs chess lead

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—RIZAL province frolicked in the lower boards to rout Cavite, 3.5-0.5, and grab the solo lead after four rounds of the 2006 National Inter-Province Chess Team Championship at the Limketkai Mall Atrium here Saturday.

PARAGUA

David Elorta, Macapagal Paguital and Arnel Pinero hurdled their respective opponents on boards two to four to power Rizal Province of Gov. Casimiro Ynares to victory. National Master Robert Suelo Jr. averted a shutout for Cavite when he drew with Rizal's board one player NM Oliver Barbosa.

Rizal also beat Misamis Oriental-A, 3-1, in the third round late Friday.

Overall, Rizal has 12.5 points out of a possible 16 in this seven-round tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines headed by Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay, in cooperation with Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno.

Agusan del Sur-A, powered by GM Mark Paragua and Samson Lim, humbled fifth seed Caloocan, 3-1, to take solo second place with 12 points. Paragua bested IM Yves Ranola while Lim overpowered Daniel Causo. Defending champion Tagaytay made its move by downing Misamis Oriental-B, 3-1, on victories by GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and Truman Hernaez over NM Levi Mercado and Carlos Moreno III. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

RP 26 shots off Canada

THE PHILIPPINES CARDED A SIX-over 150 on a pair of 75 by Marvin Dumandan and Jay Bayron and dropped to a share of 40th place Friday, 26 shots off Canada after two rounds of the World Amateur Golf Team Championship in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The Filipinos are hard-pressed to at least match the joint 23rd place finish dished out by the team of Juvic Pagunsan, Artemio Murakar and Michael Bibat in the 2004 ec tion of the event in Puerto Rico.

Bibat, whose 77 score for th team's first round output of 15 Thursday, wound up with a 7 and failed to count.

Canada fired a second straig 139 to remain at the helm with 278, just one up on 13-tin champion United States.

SPORTSWATCH

Two bouts on Fistorama today

FISTORAMA SHOWCASES AT 3:30 P.M. THE BOUTS BETWEEN FEATHERweights Rodrigo Vicera Jr. and Christopher Pacal and bantamweights Leonardo Doronio and Jayson Layson. Fistorama is shown worldwide twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global Limited's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central and RPN 9. Golf Power Plus will be shown at 3 p.m.

UBBA Stagwars slated at Roligon

THE THIRD SEASON OF UNITED BACKYARD BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (UBBA) Stagwars 4-stag derby unfolds at Roligon Mega Cockpit Nov. 6. More than 100 participants are gearing up for this stagfest featuring 200 fights. The event starts at 10 a.m., said UBBA stalwart Pipoy Patricio. Meanwhile, Roligon owner Rolly Ligon announced yesterday that promoters Ronnie Lacsina, Ben Nadurata and Jerry Ang will handle hackfights at Roligon Fridays and Sundays, starting Nov. 5.

LGBA-Bakbakan elims Nov. 4

ELIMINATIONS IN THE 2006 NATIONAL BAKBAKAN 9-STAG DERBY CONTInues on Nov. 4 at San Juan Coliseum with 100 encounters lined up. The 3-stag battle on Saturday is exclusive to members of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA). Among LGBA's 213 members, six have already advanced to the Bakbakan semifinals after posting three wins each last Oct. 23: Mauro Prieto of Palawan (Anito), Benjie Lim (Melonie), Joseph Chua (BJ Jopete), Butch Yabut and Joe Alimbuyuguen (Maribrid III), Lando Flores (Aim High 5000) and Arman Santos (SPC Jade Resort San Lorenzo). LGBA president Rene Diaz said his group aims to bring home the Bakbakan title this year.

Osmeña-Cebu nips N. Cotabato

KIDAPAWAN CITY—NEWCOMER OSMEÑA-Cebu rallied to nip Gov. Manny Piñol's North Cotabato Braves, 75-74, Wednesday night in the Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the capitol gym here.

Ex-pro Marlon Legaspi completed Osmeña-Cebu's comeback with an undergoal stab in the last 11 seconds to give the Cebuanos their first win in the tourney.

The team of former senator John Osmeña fell behind by as many as 14 points (39-53), but fought back behind the hot hands of Legaspi and Niño Marquez to end their two-game skid.

Marquez, who topscored with 22 points, and North Cotabato's Henry Fernandez engaged in a shootout in the last two minutes but it was Legaspi who delivered the vital baskets for the Cebuanos.

The loss dropped the Braves into a tie for fourth place with idle Tribu Sugbu at 3-3.

NBC takes a one-week break and resumes action on Nov. 5.

The scores:

OSMEÑA-CEBU 75—Marquez 22, Legaspi 16, De Gua 12, Zabian 10, Espiritu 6, Moody 3, Hardin 3, Reguerra 3, Abnalosa 0, De Castro 0, Canceran 0

NORTH COTABATO 74—Fernandez 28, Jawod 11, Tanigue 11, Allado 8, Tamayo 8, Espinosa 6, Ligue 4, Clar 2, Dagatan 0, Etrata 0

Quarters: 24-27, 37-48, 58-63, 75-74

Yakult 10 Miler kicks off Dec. 3

MORE THAN 2,000 RUNNERS ARE EXPECTED to challenge last year's champions Bernardo Desamito Jr. and Flordeliza Carreon when the 18th Yakult 10 Miler flags off on Dec. 3 at the Cultural Center Complex grounds in Pasay City.

According to Michael Ong, Yakult Phils. Inc. Assistant Manager Sales & Planning, developmental cash awards, trophies and medals plus gift packs await top finishers of the 10 Mile, 5K and 3K distances. Finishers will receive Yakult running singlets and a bottle of Yakult.

Event organizer and sponsor Yakult Phils. Inc. has been propagating medium distance running since the 1980s, when it held monthly running circuits in the 10K distance.

Registration fees are P150 for the 10 mile run and P100 for the 5K and 3K fun runs.

Registration starts on Nov. 13 at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. on Annapolis St. in San Juan. Registration ends on Nov. 28.

CARAGA NATIONAL OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT
2006
CARAGA CHESS: IM Yves Rañola (left) and Judge Edgar Manilag make the ceremonial moves of the Caraga National Open Chess Tournament held recently. Standing from left: Jun Cuizon, Bernardo Chan, Noli Namocatcat, Dr. Jenny Mayor and P/Supt. Glenn dela Torre.

UNIVERSITY GAMES

La Salle booters, Lady Eagles win

By Cedelf P. Tupas and Christian Irl Tan

UNIVERSITY of Iloilo's Ryan Piagola challenges the defense of Adamson's Julius Colona in their game yesterday. ANDY ALVAREZ

BACOLOD CITY—Host St. La Salle kept its poise to hack out a 5-4 shootout victory over local rival West Negros College yesterday and capture its third straight men's football crown to share the limelight with the Ateneo Lady Eagles on the penultimate day of the National University Games here.

La Salle striker Floriano Pasilan sent his spotkick to the bottom left corner for the title-clinching goal, just moments after WNC's Jehram Calvo saw his shot rattle the bar and go wide.

Although the West Negros booters, who also lost to La Salle in last year's finals, enjoyed long spells of possession early on, they could not capitalize with Robert Cañedo, Siegfred Apurado and Calvo all missing some clear goal-scoring chances from close range.

The La Sallians also got a huge lift from Miguel Gonzales, who played at midfield in the first two games, before playing goalkeeper in the final three games, replacing the ineffective Roan Datulayta.

Over at the St. La Salle Coliseum, the Lady Eagles ended their season on a high note, posting a come-from-behind 53-48 triumph over Far Eastern University.

With Cassy Tioseco clogging the middle, the Ateneans overcame a 12-point deficit early in the second half and held the Lady Tamaraws to just four points in the final period.

Tioseco finished with 22 points in pacing the Lady Eagles, who lost to the Lady Tams in the UAAP Final Four recently.

"The UAAP loss was farthest on our minds. This is a great end to our season," Ateneo coach John Flores told the Inquirer.

Meanwhile, former champion Emilio Aguinaldo College dethroned West Negros College with a thrilling 68-67 win that set up a finals showdown with Adamson University in the men's basketball tournament.

Chester Ebuen scored 22 points, including two free throws with four seconds left that gave EAC a 68-64 cushion and helped the Generals exact revenge against the Mustangs, who foiled their "three-peat" bid last year in the semifinals.

The Generals survived the Mustangs late surge with timely baskets from Ebuen and Ronjay Buenafe, whose trey from the corner provided EAC room to breathe, 62-55, with 1:04 left.

West Negros sorely missed twin towers Sivirino Baclao and Sunny Abaring, who are set to play for Ateneo de Manila University and Far Eastern U in the next UAAP season, respectively.

Buenafe scored 18 of his 21 points in the second half on 4-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc.

"My players were very tired late in the game but I'm happy we got our revenge," said Generals coach Nomar Isla, who guided EAC to the University Games crown in 2004 and 2005.

Later, Adamson trounced surprise semifinalist University of Iloilo, 71-60, with Aldrin Margallo pacing the Falcons with 15 points.

The title duel is set at 10 a.m. today.

In men's volleyball, Far Eastern U and Philippine Christian U arranged a title showdown after overwhelming De La Salle-Dasmariñas and St. La Salle, respectively, at the USLS College Covered Court.

The Dolphins survived St. La Salle, 26-24, 15-25, 25-23, 25-20, before Far Eastern overpowered De La Salle-D, 25-18, 20-25, 26-24, 25-13.

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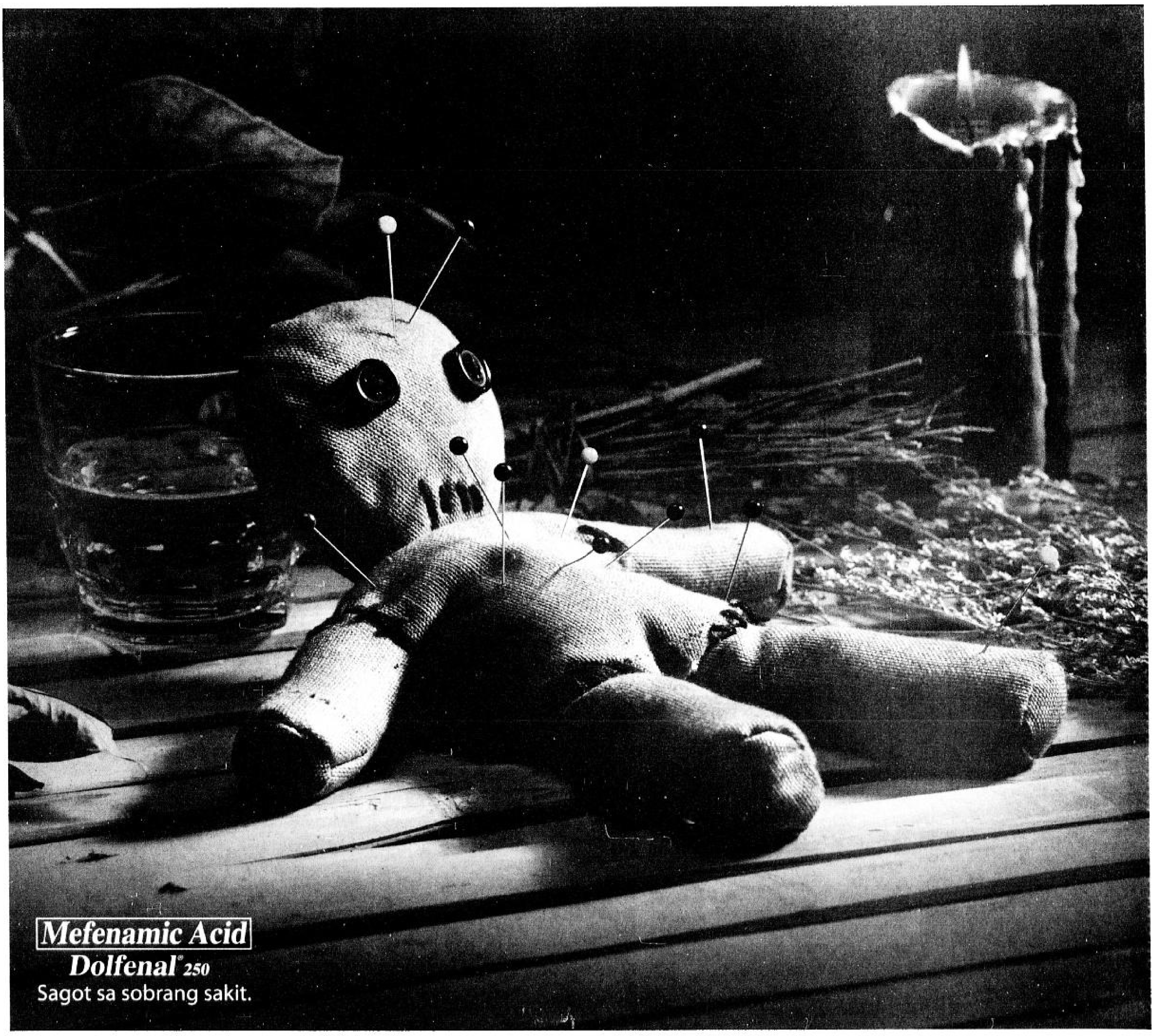
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Preview: Yao's the man for Houston five

LOS ANGELES—YAO MING SEEKS TO ESTABLISH himself as the National Basketball Association's premier big man and as long as he stays healthy this season could very well be his coming-out party.

Yao was one of the league's best players after the all-star break last season and then he got sideswiped by a broken foot.

"He is the best regular-season center in basketball. And the reason is he comes to play every night," said Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy.

Houston had high hopes for the giant Chinese center when they chose him first overall in the 2002 entry draft and he hasn't disappointed.

Now in his fifth NBA season, the 26-year-old from Shanghai has increased his power and production each year, going from 13.5 points per game average in his rookie season to 22.3 last season.

He now rates among the best centers in the league but Van Gundy believes he can take that further and really put his stamp on the position.

"He has gotten better from his first game in the NBA through now," Van Gundy said. "And he is one of the few guys who does not need any outside motivation to be a motivated player.

"Those are the guys that have chances to be great because they care to put in the extraordinary work that Yao puts in. Every athlete would maximize their potential if they did what Yao did, but they don't." *AFP*

Cardinals claim World Series

Weaver shines for St. Louis

ST. LOUIS—FAVORED BY FEW, THE ST. Louis Cardinals used an unlikely cast of characters to win their first World Series in 24 years by beating the Detroit Tigers 4-2 on Friday.

Pitcher Jeff Weaver dominated, David Eckstein drove in two runs on balls that didn't leave the infield and the Cardinals took advantage of another wild throw by a Tigers pitcher to complete the best-of-seven Series 4-1.

"I think we shocked the world," Cardinals center fielder Jim Edmonds said. "It's an unbelievable experience."

Manager Tony La Russa's Cardinals had just 83 regular-season wins, the fewest by a World Series winner, and nearly missed the playoffs after a late-season slump. But the Cardinals beat San Diego and the New York Mets in the playoffs, then won their first title since 1982 by taming a heavily favored Tigers' team that entered the Series with six days' rest.

After closer Adam Wainwright struck out Brandon Inge for the final out, Busch Stadium erupted. Wainwright raised his arms in triumph, catcher Yadier Molina ran to the mound and the pair bounced off toward second base, where they were joined by teammates running out from the dugout and the bullpen.

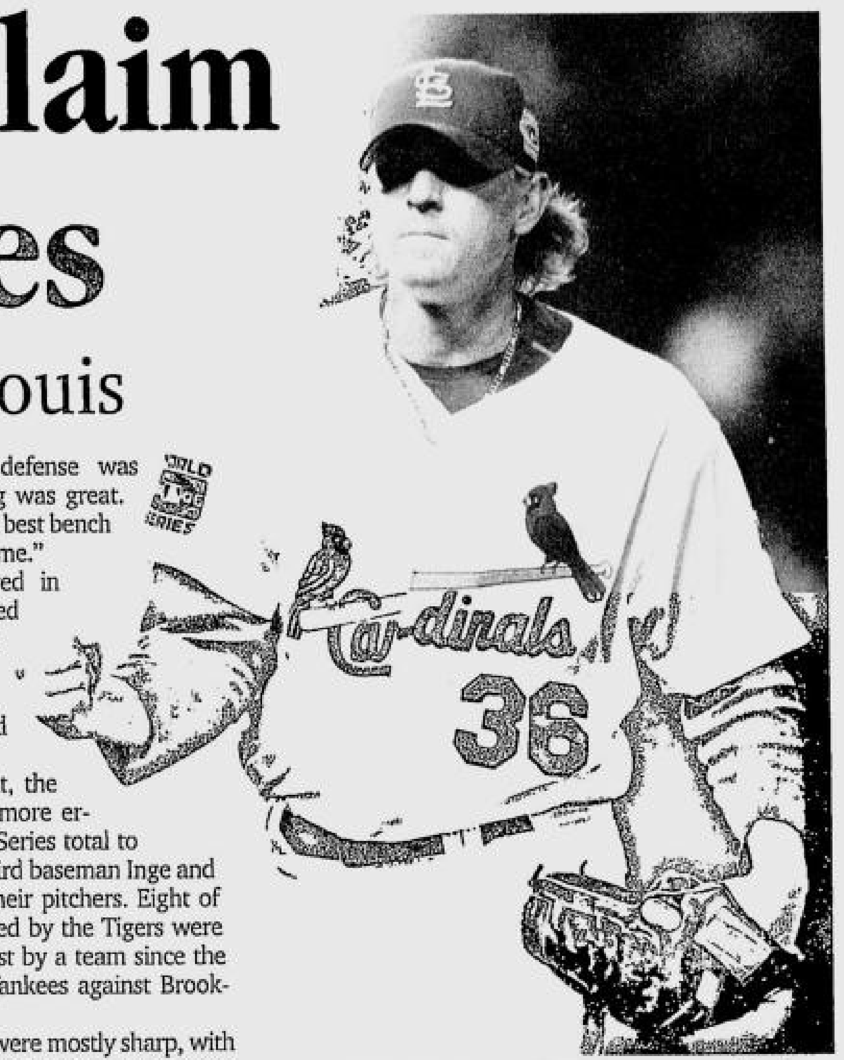
"I don't think anybody in uniform didn't do something in the postseason. Everyone did," said La Russa. "The defense was great. The pitching was great. Timely hitting. The best bench I've had in a long time."

"No one believed in us, but we believed in ourselves," said Eckstein, the 5-foot-7 shortstop who was named MVP.

On a cold night, the Tigers made two more errors, raising their Series total to eight—three by third baseman Inge and a record five by their pitchers. Eight of the 22 runs allowed by the Tigers were unearned, the most by a team since the 1956 New York Yankees against Brooklyn.

The Cardinals' were mostly sharp, with the notable exception of right fielder Chris Duncan, who dropped a fly ball just before Sean Casey's two-run homer in the fourth inning put Detroit ahead 2-1.

Weaver, cast off by the Yankees three years ago after a World Series flop, allowed four hits in eight innings, matched his season high with nine strikeouts and walked one before Wainwright finished with a one-hit ninth for the save.


ST. LOUIS pitcher Jeff Weaver pumps his fist after striking out Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez. AP

As the Tigers failed in their bid for their first title since 1984, their season ended with Kenny Rogers rested and ready with no place to pitch. Rogers, who threw 23 shutout innings in the playoffs, was saved by manager Jim Leyland for a possible sixth game on Saturday in Detroit. *AP*

Little David becomes a Goliath

ECKSTEIN: MVP REUTERS

ST. LOUIS—DAVID ECKSTEIN TOOK his mother to dinner at the White House, made a believer of Barry Bonds, and got married at Walt Disney World.

To Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland, the 5-foot-7 (1.7-meter) shortstop looks like a "cute, little kid."

Make that a World Series MVP, too.

"It was unreal out there," he told the crowd roaring for the St. Louis Cardinals on Friday.

Eckstein was hitless in his first 11 at-bats in the Series but then he hit three doubles and a single to win Game 4, then singled twice and drove in ,two runs in Game 5 as St. Louis beat Detroit 4-2 to clinch the title.

Eckstein finished 8-for-22, driving in four runs and scoring three.

When it was over, he hugged every player in the middle of the diamond —and got hoisted off the ground.

Then it was his turn to lift the MVP trophy and receive the prize that comes with it: Keys to a spanking new, bright yellow Corvette.

He married actress Ashley Drane last November and their wedding reception featured an Alice in Wonderland theme.

His size and enthusiasm can also mask his skills. A two-time All-Star who was waived by Boston in 2000, he's now a two-time World Series champion. *AP*

Homegrown hoops Nov. 4

THOSE WHO MISSED OUT ON THE ATENEO-La Salle rivalry in the UAAP will have one chance to get to see the two schools mix it up this year in the Filoil-Flying V Homegrown Cup starting Nov. 4.

The Homegrown Cup features 10 schools with a strong alumni and student base. Most of the players are those who opted to stay "home" after graduating from a particular high school system, going on to play with the senior team of their respective universities or colleges.

Ateneo will parade superstars JC Intal, Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona, and homegrown Blue Eagles like Jai Reyes, Ken Barracoso and Martin Quimson.

Archrival La Salle will have Rico Maierhoffer, Cholo Villanueva, Ty Tang, JV Casio as well as homegrown Archers, Marko Batrevic, Simon David Atkins and James Menese.

The reigning NCAA Champs the San Beda Red Lions will have behemoth Sam Ekwe manning the slot along with Yousif Aljamal, Paul Escobal and Alex Angeles.

Backing them up ably will homegrown Lions, Jay-R Taganas, Edward Canlas, Riego Gamalinda and Eduardo Tecson.

Their UAAP champion counterpart will likewise parade rebounding power Jervy Cruz along with Chester Taylor and Dylan Ababou. Taking the stage with them are the homegrown Tigers in Anthony Espiritu, Jun Cortez and Japs Cuan.

The Letran Knights will likely rely on their very own homegrown talents in John Melegrito, Mark Balneg and Rafael Jazul.

The Philsports Arena, a venue of numerous cage wars, was chosen by the organizers to be the official venue of the league. Tickets shall be available at all TicketNet at all SM outlets, the PhilSports Complex, and the Filoil office at 912-7242.

The general admission section shall be given free to the students of the participating schools.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Lancia Stratos (1), Grey Angel (3), Hot Shower (7),Minsk Quest (5)

Race 2—(Tri)—Pyramid Relaunch (5), Idol (3), Batang Westside (1)

Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Iron Tower (7), GI Speed Ball (2), Spanish Drums (6), Manila Magic (8), Xtreme Heat (5)

Race 4—(Tri)—Diamond Luster (5), Dictionary (1), Isla Clipper (2)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—No Fear (4), Golden Link (2), Annealing (1), Simly Angie/Chariot Of Fire (6)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Habagat (2), More Love (3), Express Strike (5), Heart Of My Soul (1)

Race 7—(Tri)—Million Dollar (5), Don Paolo (4), Hazmagic (1)

Race 8—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—Sir Luis (7), Dynamic Duo (4), Military Might (8), Alyssa's Choice (10), bachelor Of Arts (6), Gundam (2)

Race 9—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Diamond (2), Carbon Copy (3), Smiling Jaeda (4), Bumpy Johnson (6)

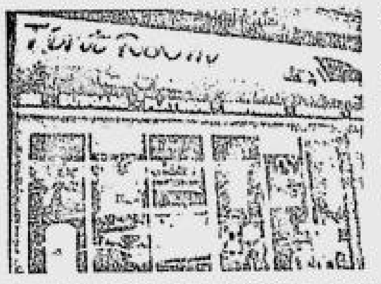
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mary jane Bomb (2), Sandok (9), Rho Sig (3), All Class (5), Fancy Dancer (10), Reign Of Fire (4)

Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Perky Perp (2), Batangas Force (1), Golden Lance (3), Princess Ther Ther (3)

Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Strong Jays (3), Ginja (5), She Boom (1), Galaxy Wars (6), Pristine Water/Sky King (8)

Race 13—(Qrt/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (1), Deity (4), Mr. Lucas (7), Speed Admiral (5)

Race 14—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Iron Mic (5), Bom's Bom's (9), Xangie's Halo (6), Dazzling Affair (1), Apex (7), Road Runner/Daytona (8)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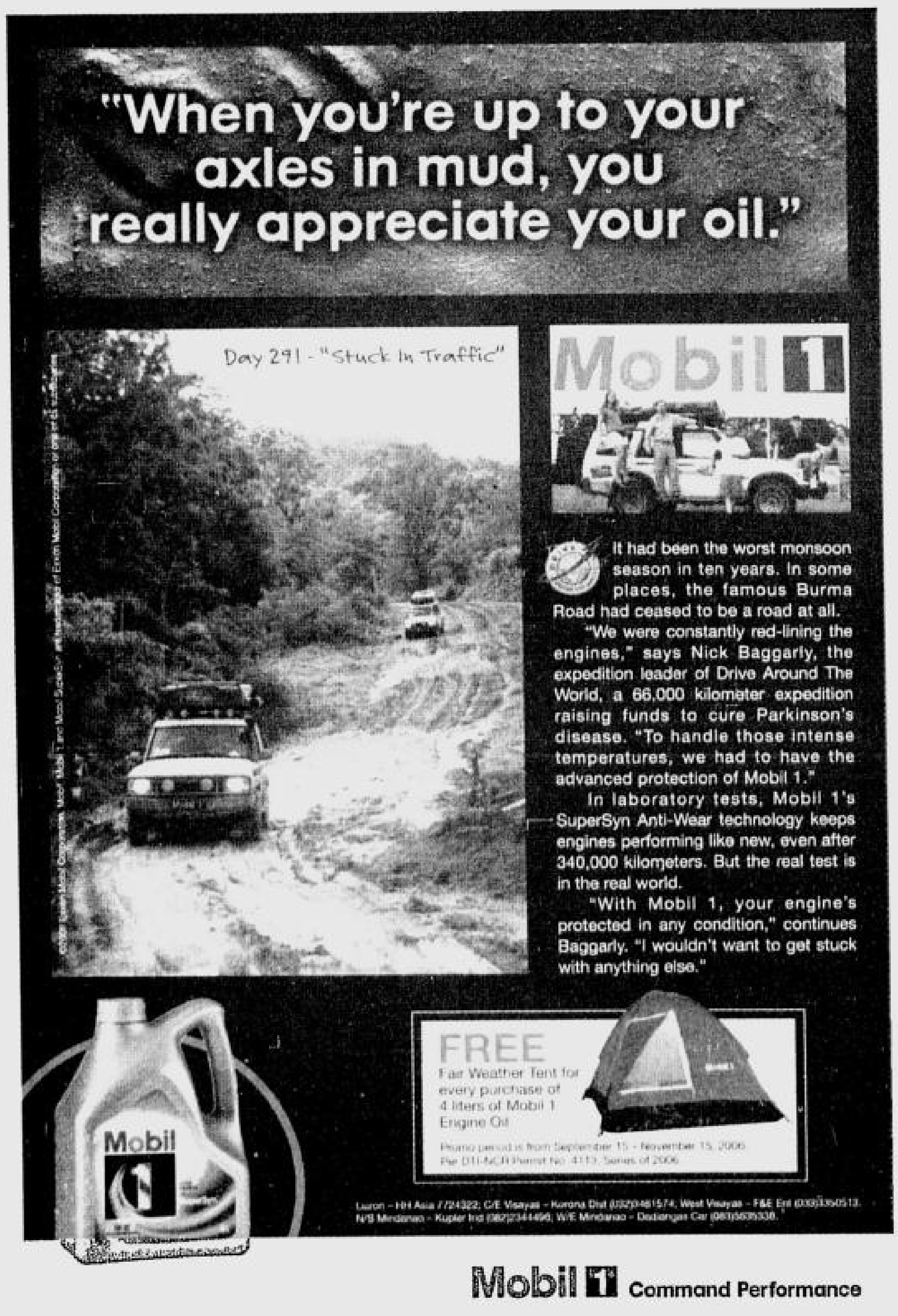

"When you're up to your axles in mud, you really appreciate your oil."

It had been the worst monsoon season in ten years. In some places, the famous Burma Road had ceased to be a road at all.

"We were constantly red-lining the engines," says Nick Baggarly, the expedition leader of Drive Around The World, a 66,000 kilometer expedition raising funds to cure Parkinson's disease. "To handle those intense temperatures, we had to have the advanced protection of Mobil 1."

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Sunday Biz

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

First, Davao , then, Manila ... soon, the world?

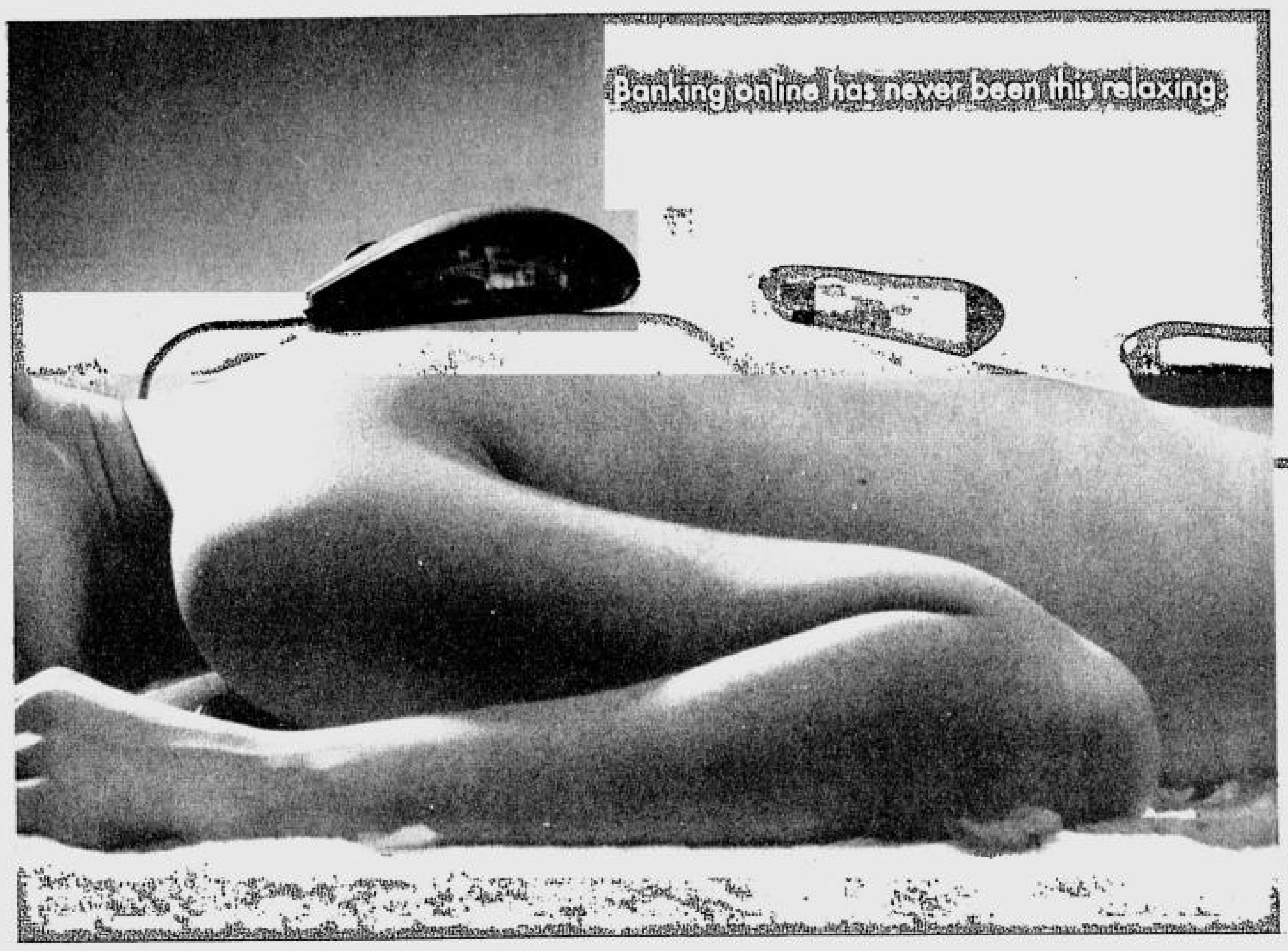
Housewife's 'puto-kutsinta' mix sets an international invasion

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

SASA, DAVAO CITY—NENITA Abad-Balino is a Tagala from Nueva Ecija who won over Davao with her, Kanegie Kakanin brand of puto, kutsinta, sapin-sapin and maja blanca instant mixes.

FIRST/B2

NENITA Abad Balino with samples of her products: powdered kakanin mixes, kakanin-to-go, and food flavors.



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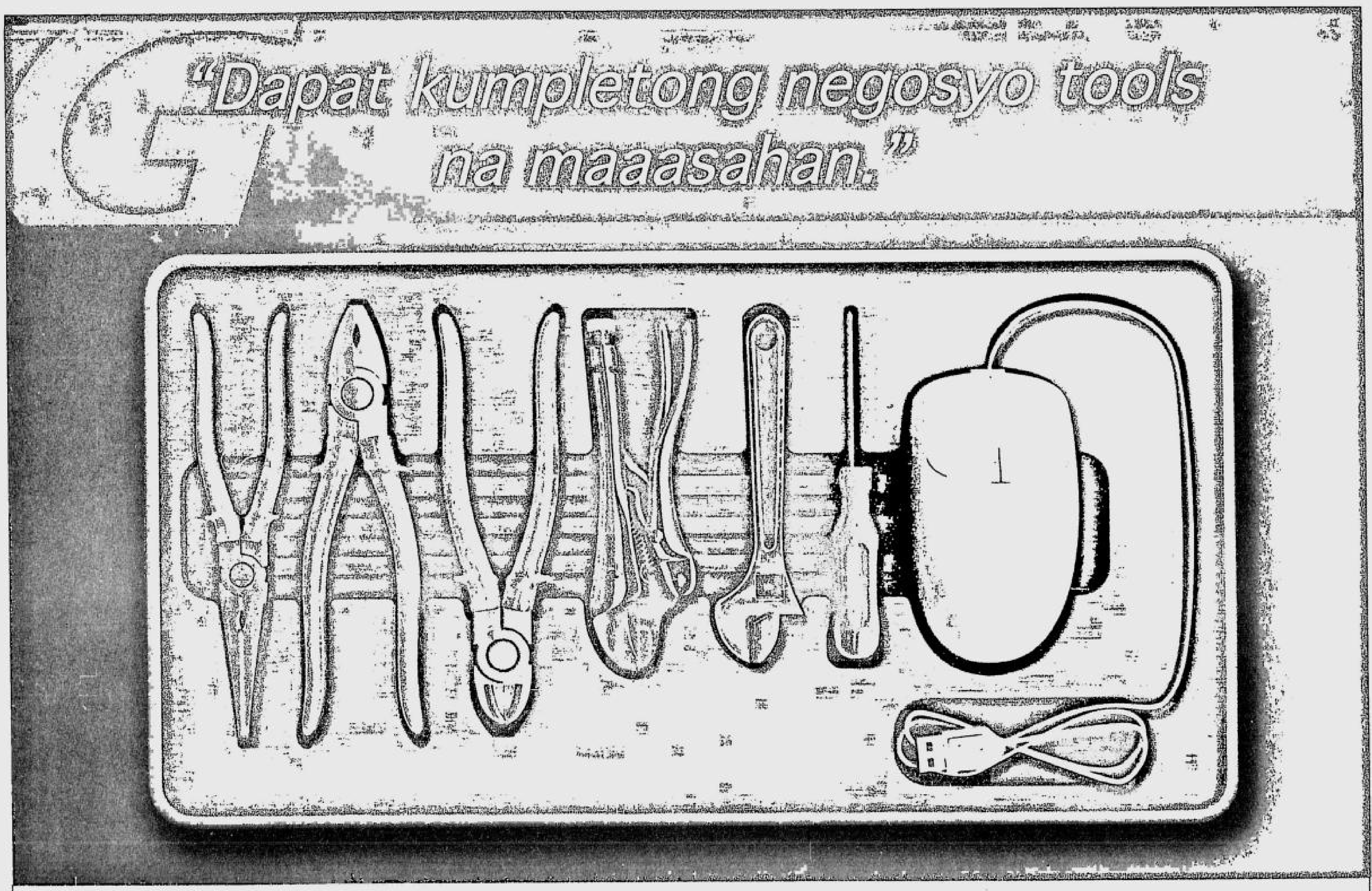

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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF METRO PACIFIC CORPORATION

All holders of shares of common stock of Metro Pacific Corporation (respectively, the "Shareholders" and "MPC") are hereby notified that on October 25, 2006, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. MPIC, which is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, intends to acquire up to 227,515,063 common shares of MPC.

The consideration for the acquisition of the common shares of MPC to be tendered (the "Subject Shares") is one (1) common share in MPIC (the "MPIC Shares"), plus three (3) warrants (the "Warrants") to purchase up to three (3) MPIC Shares for ₱ 1.00 per share, for every four (4) shares in MPC (after giving effect to the 1 for 20 reverse stock split approved by the SEC on August 23, 2006).

The Tender Offer shall commence on October 27, 2006, and end at 3:00 p.m. on November 28, 2006 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The closing or completion of the Tender Offer is conditional upon the approval by the PSE of the listing by way of introduction of the outstanding MPIC shares (including the shares to be issued pursuant to the Tender Offer) and Warrants and the listing of the underlying shares of the Warrants.

The Subject Shares are intended to be crossed on the PSE on December 8, 2006 (the "Cross Date") subject to PSE approval.

Should any of the business days during the period from October 27, 2006, the commencement of the Tender Offer Period and December 8, 2006, the Cross Date, inclusive, be officially declared a non-working holiday after the filing of the Tender Offer Report on October 25, 2006, the period shall be extended by the number of business days corresponding to those which were declared as non-working holidays.

MPIC intends to issue the MPIC Shares and Warrants as payment for the tendered and accepted Subject Shares on December 13, 2006. The said MPIC Shares and Warrants shall be made available by the Stock Transfer Agent for pick up by the tendering Shareholders after 9:00 a.m. on December 13, 2006 assuming the shares are crossed on the Cross Date

Tendering Shareholders who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Shareholders") should submit within the Tender Offer Period their duly endorsed stock certificates, the duly accomplished Application and the following supporting documents:

	For Corporate Shareholders		For Individual Shareholders
1.	Certified true copies of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendment/s thereof.	1.	One (1) valid identification card containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder.
2.	A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form prescribed by MPIC setting forth resolutions of the tendering shareholder's Board of Directors authorizing the tender and sale of the Company's Subject Shares and designating the signatories for the purpose.	2.	For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form prescribed by MPIC.
3.	A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signatures of its authorized signatories validated by the Corporate Secretary.	3.	A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder.
4.	MPC Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to August 23, 2006 (the effective date of the MPC reverse stock split) must endorse the same share certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.	4.	MPC Minority Shareholders submitting share certificates issued prior to August 23, 2006 (the effective date of the MPC reverse stock split) must endorse the same share certificates and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate
5.	MPC Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate.	5.	MPC Minority Shareholders who have lost their share certificates must submit a notarized Affidavit of Loss and additionally sign and submit a Stock Assignment Form for the replacement share certificate

Tendering Scrip Shareholders may submit their applications in any of the following ways:

1) Through pick-up, in which case the Tendering Shareholder should call the MPIC Tender Hotline toll-free telephone no. 1-800-10-888-0888 on or before November 24, 2006. The cost of courier services shall be borne by MPIC.

2) Delivery to ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. ("ATRKE"), 17th Floor, Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Telephone No. (02) 849-8888 (Contact Person: Ms. Nilaida S. Enriquez or Mr. Denis G. Du).

For the convenience of Scrip Shareholders based in Visayas and Mindanao who opt to submit their Applications, the Subject Shares may be tendered by submitting the foregoing requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of ATRKE not later than November 21, 2006

ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. Cebu Branch		ATR KimEng Securities, Inc. Davao Branch
Room 206. Cebu Holdings Center		Dr #7 M.T. Aquino Building
Cebu Business Park Cebu City		Cabaguio Avenue Corner Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (032) 231-1324		Telephone No (082) 224-2860
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim-Go		Contact Person Miguel Luis R Aquino

ATRKE will submit the share certificates for validation to Stock Transfer Services Inc, the stock transfer agent of MPC. Defective applications (*e.g.*, with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by MPIC. Hence, Shareholders are strongly urged against tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow ATRKE to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Central Depository Nominee Corporation ("PCD") ("Scripless Shareholders") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to ATRKE for receipt by ATRKE prior to 3:00 p.m. of November 28, 2006. ATRKE shall hold the tendered common shares only as custodian.

Tendering Shareholders shall have the right to withdraw any tendered shares at any time during the Tender Offer Period. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be received by ATRKE before 3:00 p.m. of November 28, 2006

Copies of SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by Shareholders from ATRKE at their addresses stated above.

For inquiries about MPIC or the Tender Offer, please dial the MPIC Tender Hotline at toll-free telephone no. 1-800-10-888-0888.

Sapin-Sapin Mix
Sapin-Sapin Mix
Kutsinta Mix
Kutsinta Mix
Puto Cheese

BALINO

First Davao, then Manila ...

From page B1

The mixes are found in supermarket shelves all over Davao del Norte and have recently begun to be "exported" to Manila through the SM supermarket chain. She also has two mall-based pasalubong centers that sell ready-to-eat kakanin-sa-bilao like proverbial hotcakes.

When Nenita settled with husband Sammy in the latter's native Davao City in 1993, she tried one small business after another to help her seaman husband support their young family. She had an ace up her sleeves: she knew how to formulate vanilla, lemon, and other food flavors, thanks to her Ate Rosario who learned the trade working in her husband's food flavor enterprise in Malabon and passed it on to Nenita

Retailing was what Nenita tried at first. She ran a rolling store, a public market stall, and a sari-sari store—one after the other. She also supplied a leading store in Davao with volume quantities of the food flavorings she has learned to formulate, but orders from this one big client began to dwindle in time.

Within a year, it was clear that these tiny ventures were not getting them anywhere. Sammy suggested going back to Manila, but Nenita wasn't about to go home "a loser."

Giving birth twice

In 1994, after seven years of marriage and trying to have a baby, Nenita finally became pregnant and delivered a baby girl. Motherhood kept her homebound for a while, as Sam, who had just then turned his back to seafaring, minded the store.

As it turned out, it was not only a baby Nenita gave birth to but also another business project.

Boredom and the natural drive to create led Nenita to detour from the nursery to the kitchen, experimenting with food flavor and flour. Everyday, she had a new batch of puto and kutsinta. Today, pandan-flavored. Tomorrow, ube-flavored. The day after, durian-flavored. She must have exhausted her entire rack of flavorings.

Nenita's first batches of puto-kutsinta found their first market at the canteen of a grade school nearby. Before long, she was supplying seven school canteens on consignment. She wasn't making money, however, as bilaos of the kakanin were returned unsold and spoiled. Her luck with puto-kutsinta turned when she began supplying big hotels—Menseng Grand and Grand Royale hotels. As demand grew, she improved her bargaining position. Today, Nenita deals with these outlets no longer on consignment but on cash basis.

Within a year, Nenita had added sapin-sapin to her line of kakanin-to-go.

Next, she thought of producing kutsinta solution—a mixture of lye and water. This clicked and she was soon supplying NCC Supermarkets and Park 'n' Shop with bottles of the solution.

Diversifying, growing

It was just a matter of time and more kitchen experiments before Nenita developed an all-in-one pack kutsinta solution, flour and sugar. All a buyer had to do was to add water and then steam the mixture.

It was also just a matter of time before she introduced other all-in-one powdered mixes—cheese puto, maja blanca and sapin-sapin.

Today, Kanegie powdered mixes in many variants can be found in all supermarkets around Davao. These include Gaisano, Victoria Plaza, Park 'n' Shop, NCC, South City, SM Davao, and Buena Supermarkets. In addition she has a network of 15 distributors as far as GenSan and Cagayan de Oro City.

Last year, during a visit to Davao, SM-Manila's procurement manager took an interest in Kanegie Kakanin mixes. The deal forged was an exclusive distributorship for SM of the products in the Manila and Luzon areas.

By this time, Nenita had moved production from her small kitchen to a 40-sq.m. area on the second floor of her two-story home in Sasa.

Eyeing more growth

With the successful entry of Kanagie Kakanin into the Manila market, Nenita expects bigger production volume. She needs to hire more people and buy more equipment like heavy-duty mixers and dispensers, pumps, and automatic packing and sealing machines.

As she is averse to sharing decision-making, she shuns suggestions to enter joint venture arrangements or look for financiers. What she needs, she says, is a big loan to enable her to upgrade her facilities.

Not that she lacks sources of credit. Her sister-in-law and some friends are open handed: she approaches them for small, quick loans. Cooperatives are also a good source of capital, she found out. Finding herself cash-strapped two years ago, she joined a cooperative and liked the experience. Today she is a member of four coops.

Sometimes she gets desperate enough to take her post-dated checks to someone willing to rediscount them.

She got wind of Micro Enterprise Bank's credit program for micro entrepreneurs three years ago. She got a P50,000 loan to augment her working capital. She is now on her umpteenth loan cycle where she was able to get P150,000.

She is aware she has "graduated" from micro to small scale, and may no longer belong to the target clientele of Micro Enterprise Bank. Nenita wonders if a commercial or government bank would be willing to give her the kind of credit she needs, which she estimates to be "to the tune of about P1 million."

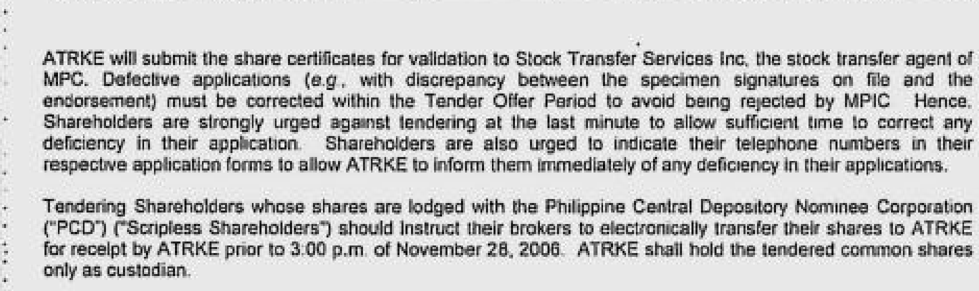
In the meantime, she grabs every chance to promote her products. Last year, she joined the trade fair at the World Trade Center in Manila. This put her in touch with a Pasig-based international agent with whom she has begun negotiating to sell Kanegie Kakanin mixes to Australia, the United States and Guam.

Beyond Davao, Beyond Manila

Nenita's ready-to-go kakanin and ready-to-cook mixes have undoubtedly won over Davao. And after successfully entering the Metro Manila and Luzon markets; she sees the international market beckoning.

Going by her record, Nenita seems bound for wherever she sets her eyes on.

(Watch out for "Dreamers, Doers, Risk-takers Part 3: The Micros that Roared" which will be launched in November in commemoration of its publishers' anniversary celebration—UP ISSI's 40th and Serdef's 30th, respectively. For inquiries call or email the author at Tel. 928-7076 to 79 and myrna.co@up.edu.ph.)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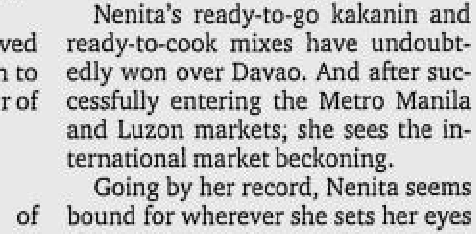

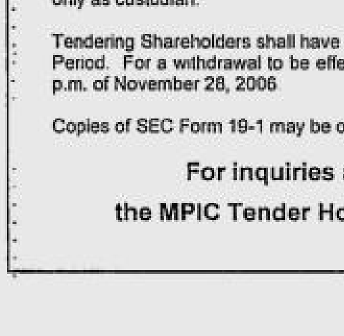

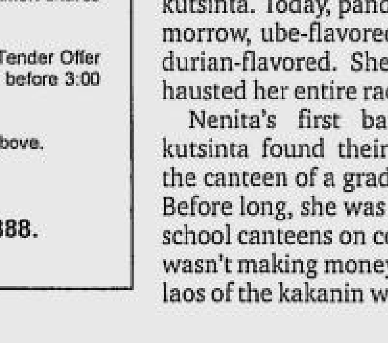

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Real pigs for piggy banks among Bontoc Igorots

By EV Espiritu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—FOR the Bontoc Igorots, real pigs are their piggy banks.

Pigs, or futog in the local dialect, do not literally make them wealthy, but 90 percent of this capital town's population have come out of poverty and gone places because of these animals.

Mt. Province was recently classified by the National Economic and Development Authority and the National Statistical Coordination Board as the poorest province in the Cordillera.

Based on a 2003 survey of the region's consumption patterns and its residents' annual income, Mt. Province has displaced Ifugao as the fourth poorest province in the country.

But no one in this province will admit to being poor. Almost every family has a pigpen beside its house because the hogs supply them food, and assure them of a marketable asset and enough compost for its farmlands.

Agriculture experts acknowledge that the pig industry that is thriving here is one of the remaining traces that speak about the oldest traditions and customs of the Bontocs.

The pig is sacred, and residents, to this date, still sacrifice their charges to Lummauig, a mythological Bontoc deity, for good fortune or to ward off evil spirits.

But the back story that some residents would relate to strangers reveals that owning a native pig brings Mt. Province closer to Lummauig.

Seventy percent of the province's 165,000 residents are into hog-raising. Here in urban Bontoc, 90 percent of its 22,308 population own hogs to supply the market and to sustain native rituals.

"Because lands here are also expensive, pigpens become part of the assets distributed to heirs when a family elder dies," said Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog.

Dalog said the pens' value increases every time these are inherited because Bontoc hogs are also priced for their "special ingredients."

Dr. Bonifacio Magalong, administrative officer of the provincial health office, said Bontoc hogs are fed with camote-like green leafy plants called ange to make "the meat lean and the fat layer also lean."

Ange costs no more than P10 per bundle, and is crushed or mixed with pig food.

But the dividends are a hundred times more.

Compared to commercial pigs sold in the market, fully grown kustom (black native pigs) are priced from P8,000 to P10,000, Carmen Magalong, a hog raiser, said.

Kustom, also known as pangatyaan or chisig, are valuable because these dark pigs are used exclusively for ritual feasts.

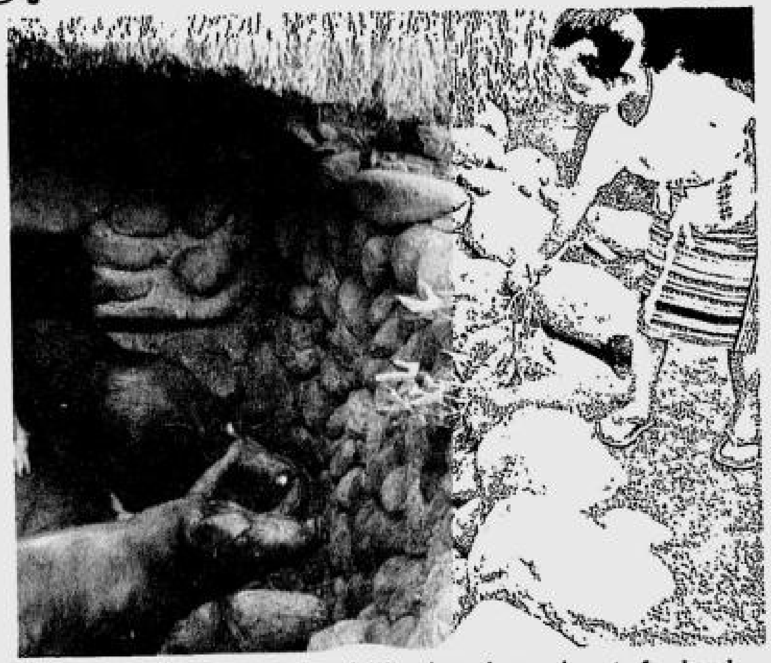
But Bontocs also raise white pigs for the regular markets.

Bontoc hogs are priced according to their size, and residents transacting hogs never require weighing scales, Magalong said.

A pigpen found just beside a house usually measures no more than a meter wide. Adjacent to the pen is a plot of ange and kangkong that serve as the pig's food. Each family owns at least a native pig.

In Barangay Bontoc Ili, pigpens are built just below the houses.

Pigs are a status symbol. The more pigs a family has, the richer it is regarded because of high property values here, said Dalog.


AS EARLY as 6 years old, Fantek Magalong, knows how to feed and take care of their fotog or pigs in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

INDIGENOUS game of catching the greasy pig or "chepap si fotog" showcase in Lang-ay Festival in Bontoc, Mountain Province.

PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Creating economic change ...

From page B4

coop, while Mayor Leo de Vera has committed a P100,000-grant for the factory's further expansion.

Why rice crackers

Castillo says the coop officers wanted to embark on a livelihood project that would make use of locally available materials.

"Rice is easily available, and so is squash which is grown in Mangabul marshlands during dry season," he says.

But the rice produced in the village is not enough to meet the production need. Besides, the rice produced there is soft while the rice for the crackers must be of the firm variety.

"Thus we buy rice from the National Food Authority," Castillo says.

The NFA rice has another advantage because it is fortified with iron.

The factory also makes use of rice hull from the rice mill as fuel in cooking the crackers.

During summer when the demand is high, the coop produces rice crackers from eight bags (50 kilos each) of rice. During the rainy season, it needs only three bags of rice.

For every bag of rice, 15 kilos of squash are added.

Producing rice crackers is a tedious process. First, the rice is pounded and mixed with ingredients like squash, cassava flour (for the curly cracker variety) or corn starch (for the flat ones).

The flavorings (iodized salt, sodium bicarbonate and a small amount of monosodium glutamate) are then added and the mixture is steamed for five minutes.

The mixtures are sun-dried or mechanically dried to remove moisture. Finally, these are deep-fried.

Castillo says the coop, through the DOST, is studying how to add malunggay and saluyot leaves to the rice crackers.

"Our rice crackers are not junk foods," he says.

The coop still has no vehicle to bring its products to the market, thus buyers go to the village to get them. "We plan to buy a vehicle so that we can deliver the products and increase our market," Castillo says.

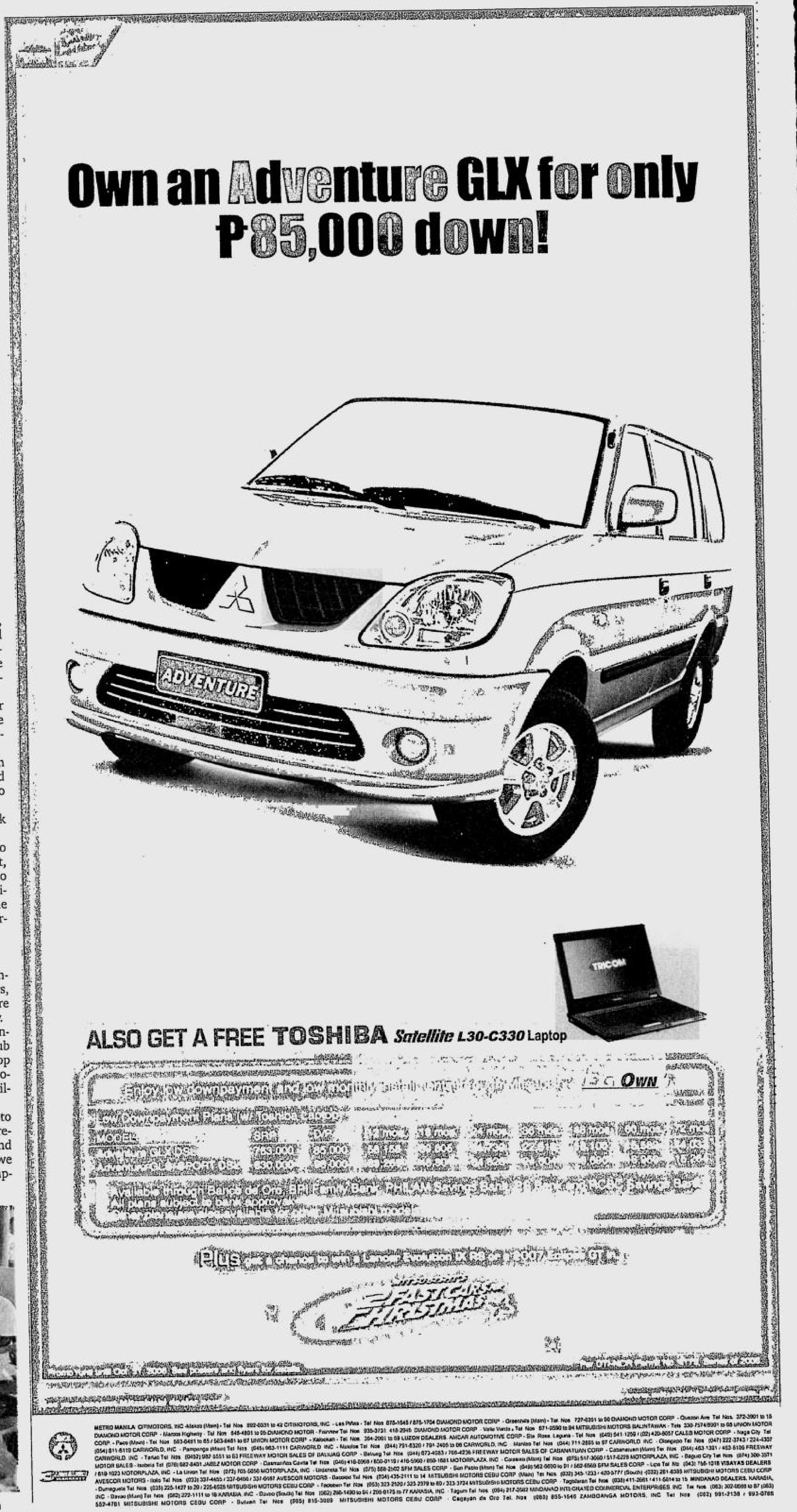
Employment

The venture has generated employment for coop members, Bautista says. The women are now busy working in the factory.

"There used to be a lot of unemployed here," Juanito Calub and Salvador Bautista, coop board members, says. "The factory is really a big help to the village."

Castillo says: "We also want to introduce our village to other regions through the delicious and nutritious rice crackers. And we are thankful that the people appreciate our products."

WORKERS doing their assigned tasks at the cooperative factory in Barangay Sancagulis, Bayambang, Pangasinan.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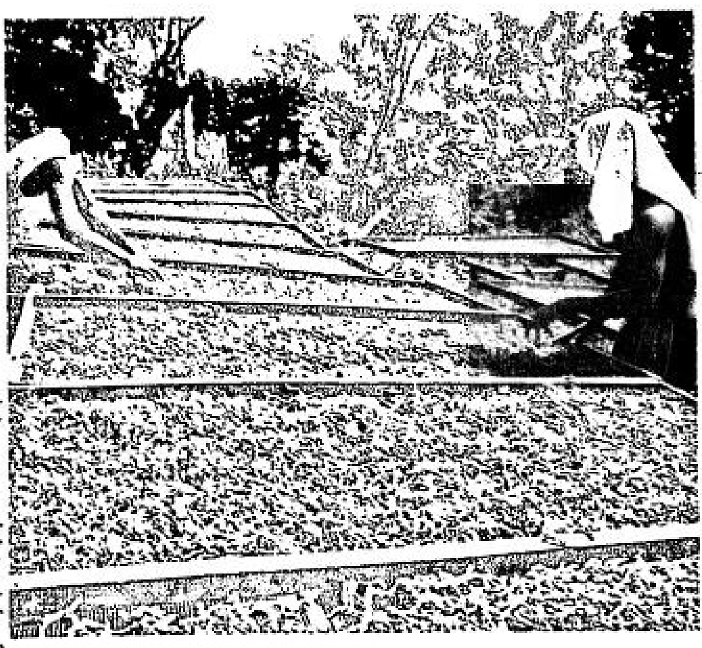
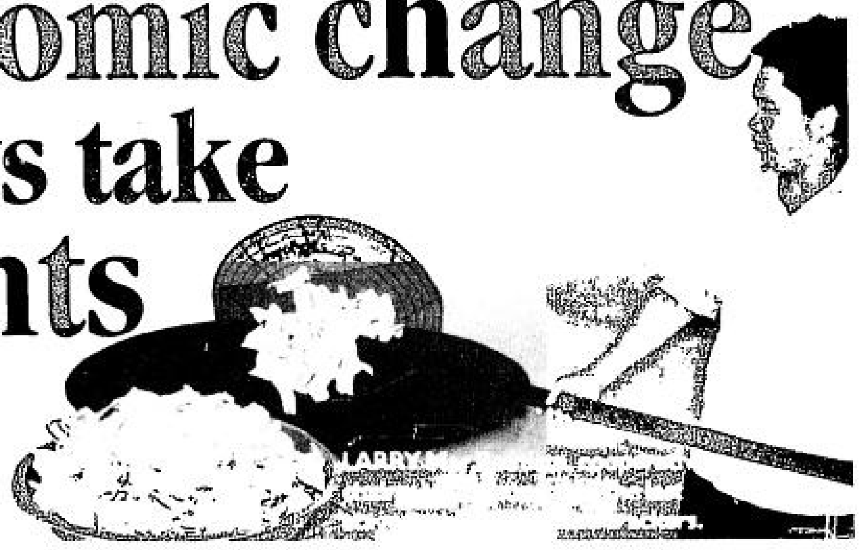


TWO WORKERS sun-dries semi-processed rice crackers at their cooperative factory in Barangay Sancagulis, Bayambang, Pangasinan.

PHOTOS BY RAY ZAMBRANO/ INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Creating economic change does not always take huge amounts



Pangasinan village cashes in on rice crackers

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN—Sancagulis village offers a rustic, picturesque scene that calms the mind—rolling hills, towering trees, and sun-bathed rice fields ready for harvesting.

And from this pollution-free village are the hardworking people who churn out fortified rice crackers fast invading the market of Pangasinan and nearby provinces.

The rice crackers are produced by the Sancagulis Multi Purpose Cooperative founded in 1995 by a group of residents led by former banker Romualdo Castillo Jr. The cooperative first engaged in money lending, cattle and swine dispersal and rice milling.

The rice cracker production was the cooperative's latest venture. It was put up due to a collective grief among the villagers who lost three residents to floods brought about by Typhoon Gading in 1998.

Castillo, now the village chair, narrates that the three residents were factory workers in another town. The factory was closed because of a blackout, and they were going home to the village.

While they were crossing a bridge in Alcala town, they were swept away by the raging waters of the swollen Agno River.

"We thought then, why were the villagers working in another town?" Castillo says. "If we have skilled residents, why don't we tap them and put up a factory right in the village so they don't need not go far to work?"

It was found out that another villager, Rogelio Gamueta, was working in a rice cracker factory in Manila. He was recruited by the cooperative to train workers to produce the munchies.

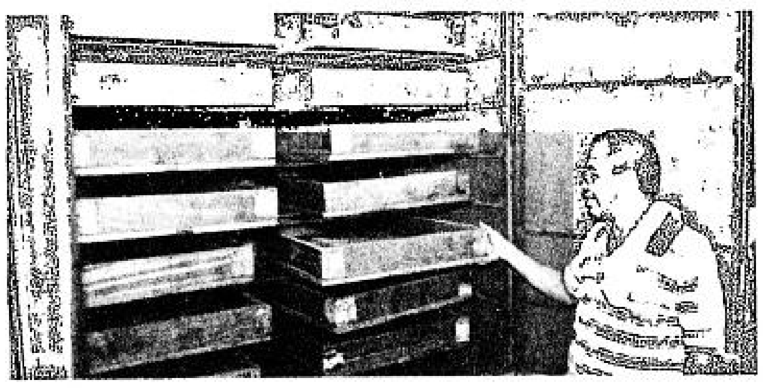
It was in 2002 before the factory finally started with a P99,000 loan from the Department of Labor and Employment.

Another soft loan of P213,000 from the DOLE went to the upgrading of equipment and the factory.

Larry Mar Bautista, the cooperative's chair, says several government agencies are helping the group in its rice cracker venture.

The Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Social Welfare and Development have also helped the

CREATING/ B3



BARANGAY chair Romualdo Castillo of Barangay Sancagulis, Bayambang, Pangasinan, as he shows the pre-heating oven they are using in the manufacture of rice crackers.

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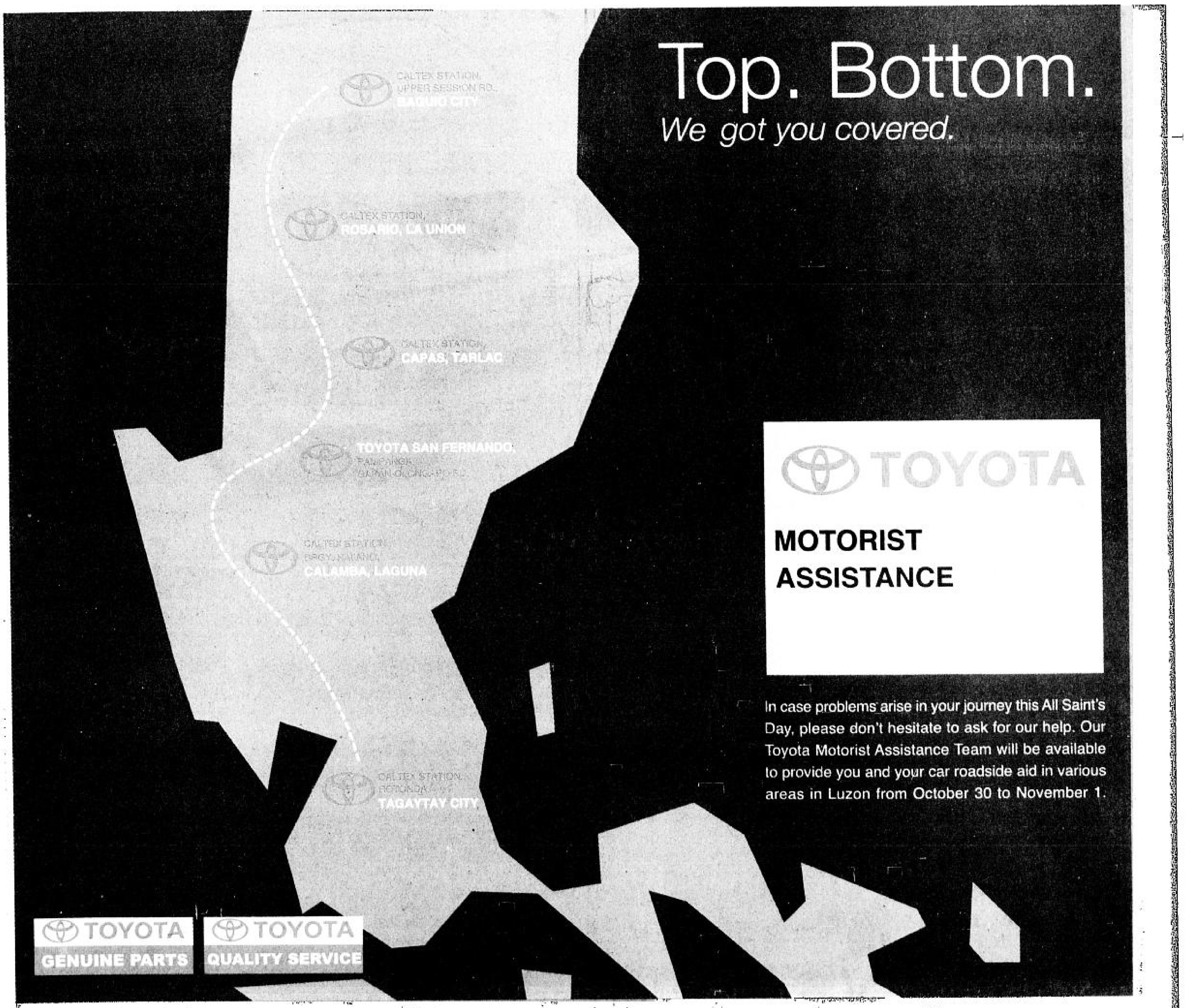
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Sunday IFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

y/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Mönmilk
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HAUNTING and hilarious costumes of the "US Girls" Halloween Party featured at Studio 23

Oh bless you, Halloween

It's probably my most favorite season because I have an excuse to dress up in outrageous costume

HALLOWEEN IS ABSOLUTELY one of my favorite occasions. Obviously, I have a passion for costumes and this ghostly, creepy celebration is a great reason for my friends and I to play dress-up.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

As part of the "US Girls Show" on Studio 23, my house was converted into a bloodcurdling, eerie setup with horrifying décor prepared by PSID, complete with a tarot-card-reading den, a deliciously haunting buffet by Hai Chinese Restaurant in Mall of Asia and a bloody wine bar hosted by Torres Wines.

Creatively designed, Gothic invites by unique artists **Mye** and **Norman Cruz** of Adworks (tel. 6880085 or e-mail adworksgrfx@yahoo.com) announced the theme of the party. Guests were asked to come as any fictional character and the pairs with the best costumes won prizes.

Halloween means having a fantabulous time with close friends all dressed up as hilarious characters. Several came in groups this year, notably The Flintstones, The Adams Family and even some brave "Milenyo" coconut trees. INQUIRER gang **Tim Yap** and **Leica Carpo** came as image models Heart and Jericho of Penshoppe. We had Russian twin sailors, Japanese Imperial Court royalty, a Sky High Prom King and Queen, and even a Bhutanese Enlightened Being.

The US Girls themselves were delightful in their Disney Princess costumes. We all played a "Dress Your Skull" game, which ended in a tossup between the visually arresting Princess Ariel Team of **Chesca Garcia** and the ghastly narrative storytelling of the Princess Jasmine Team of **Iya Villania**. In the end, even the Sleeping Beauty Team of **Angel Aquino** won prizes and giveaways from Bench.

In Morticia Adams costume

Halloween season means I can be in costume even for non-costume events. For one of the Metrowear Series fashion shows, I dressed as Morticia Adams. The next day, I wore a black, cocoon-like ensemble by **Patrice Ramos Diaz** for the invitational show of the Battery Dance Company of New York at the CCP. It was a stunning, modern ballet integrated with freestanding wire costumes. My mother, **Marixi Prieto**, asked me to accompany her to get my cultural side reactivated. Afterward, we met the artists and they were amazed... with my costume. Our Philippine designers are truly world-class!

From there, I headed to the biggest year-

OH BLESS/ C2

WINNER costumes of "Milenyo" Trees: Leah Puyat, Angellette Calero, Keren Pascual and Anton Barretto

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US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney and PDI chair Marixi Prieto

FASHIONABLE ladies Grace Baja and Doyee Tactacan

CHIC bag designer Bea Valdes, Archie Rodriguez and Mike Toledo

COUTURE House designer Christine Go, Jaqueline Pua and Pinky Lim

US COUNSELOR Scott Bellard and UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham and wife Jill

METRO Family Thelma San Juan, Alya Honasan and Carlo Tadiar

Oh bless you, Halloween

From page C1

end joint event of Shu Uemura and Motorola at the Rockwell Tent. In yet another most impressive and generous launch, Motorola raffled off over a hundred of its newest mobile phone, Motokrzr. In its stunningly slim case packed with functionality and features, this Motorola is one of the most advanced models, with integrated music player, downloaded games and compatible Bluetooth-enabled stereo headphone.

'Shu-percalifragilistic'

Not to be outdone, Shu Uemura gave away an equal number of Rouge Unlimited, its newest superstar lipstick. If there were a beauty marketing genius I had to single out, it would be **Tina Tinio** of Shu Uemura. In just a couple of years, she has solidly built the market share of this Japanese beauty line. Because of her outstanding efforts, she is being promoted to the Singapore office. I wish her well and will miss her constant invitations to her product launches.

Smart Infinity has been very supportive in so many of my projects and is very aggressive in its promotions. Aside from being a major sponsor of the Shu Uemura/Motorola/JAL event (and my recently celebrated Velada), Smart Infinity hosted the Dream FM 106.7 Glam Gothic Halloween Party at The Loft in Rockwell.

As we take costume parties seriously, only Tim Yap and I were all decked out in Halloween Glam. I bought hairy, giant spiders in Divisoria to transform me into a Black Widow. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to win the prizes courtesy of Ginebra San Miguel's Premium Gin and Duty Free Philippines.

Dream Party and ABC 5 hosted the multi-activity event with makeup areas by The Body Shop and photo sessions by Child's Play Photography. The remaining talents on the top-rating "Philippine Idol" performed a Pinoy hit, accompanied by Authority Band led by **Juan Miguel Salvador.**

The evening's highlight was the raffle of a beautiful, bejeweled necklace encrusted with sand pearls and hematite gems by Roman Jewels. A lucky lady from Universal McCann brought the piece home after her name was drawn right after the Gothic Glam Fashion Show. Multifaceted **Annette Coronel** brilliantly created the fashion production.

Turning Japanese

Halloween this year seems to be like United Nations Day. One day I was in full Japanese Kimono and, the very next day, in a Chinese cheongsam. Firma Makati, together with Greenbelt Ayala Mall, opened an elegant exhibition of 17th-19th century Japanese paintings and woodblock prints at the Greenbelt 3 Lobby, showing until Nov. 7. I wore my stylized Japanese Kimono by young, talented Cebu designer **Ronald Enrico** for the opening.

My favorite artistic partner friends, **Ricky Toledo** and **Chito Vijandre**, are regular fixtures in all my theme parties and constantly win in the best-costume category. So for them, I make sure to come in full costume glory with as much attention to detail as they prepare for mine.

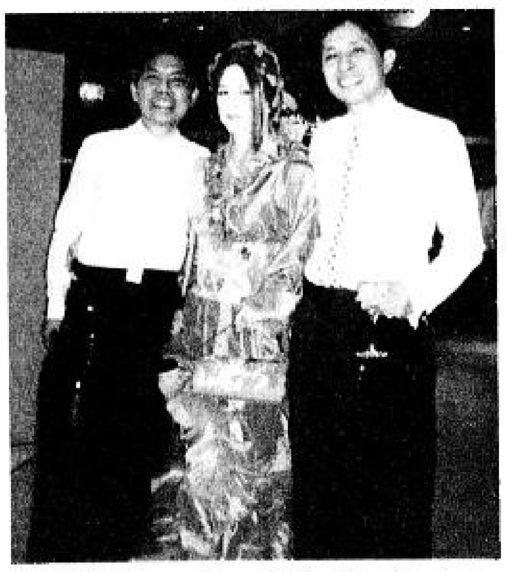
Be sure to catch the exquisite exhibit to enrich yourself with the artistry of imperious shoguns, coquettish courtesans and impressive kabuki actors. And drop by the Firma shop for some early Christmas shopping. You'll find the most unique and beautiful selection of jewelry, houseware and lifestyle gifts.

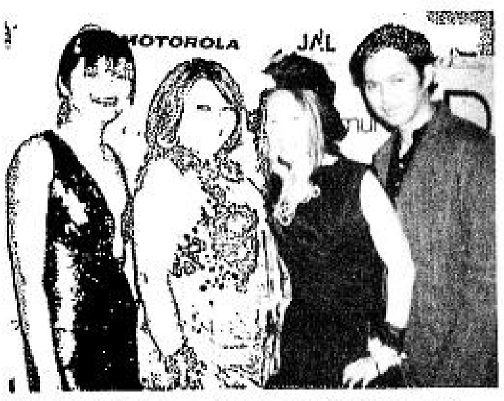
Feeling feng-shui-tic

The very next day, I graced the opening of the first Makati shop of World of Feng Shui, owned by my most auspicious friend **Maritess Allen**. Located at booming Serendra at The Fort, WFS commenced with a loud bang with Lion Dancers spreading good luck throughout the store. Fellow Rabbit **Gloria Diaz** was the guest of honor. We Rabbits are quite lucky this year as the Dog is our Secret Friend.

Lucky Maritess demonstrated how to do a Wealth Vase but she also emphasized Feng Shui is only a third of one's total luck. Doing good deeds is another third, so to enhance your lives, do a lot of treats and less of the tricks! Happy Halloween!

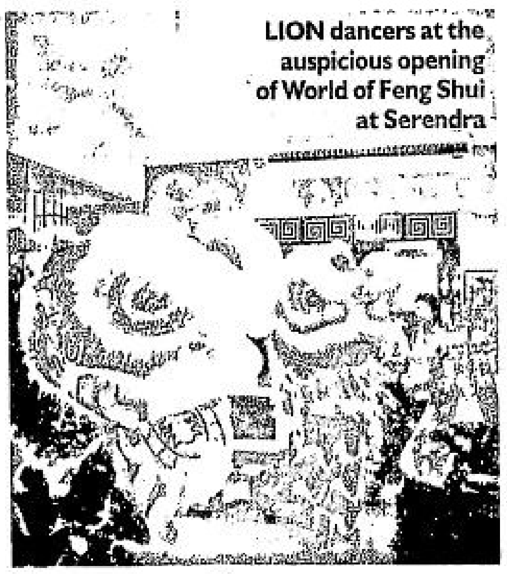
E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph


JAPANESE Imperial set Chito Vijandre, Sea Princess and Ricky Toledo



SHU Uemura beauties Tessa Dragon, Tina Tinio, Sea Princess and Motorola Marketing head Mari Litonjua at Beyond Limits, Beyond Wonder

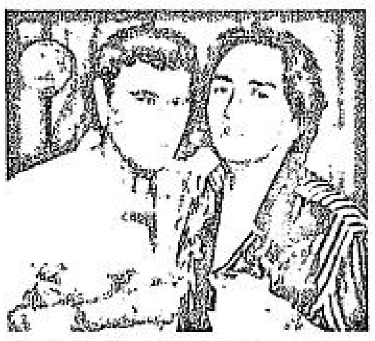
WORLD of Feng Shui owner Maritess Allen, Carol Llanillo, Miri Kaku and Gloria Diaz


LION dancers at the auspicious opening of World of Feng Shui at Serendra

DREAM 106.7 Glam designers Ronald Pineda, Annette Coronel, Randy Ortiz, Joji Lloren, Dennis Lustico and Vic Barba

ABC 5 and Dream FM family Bobby Barreiro, Raffy Suarez, Annette Coronel, Choy Cojuangco, Mari and Le Lagdameo, and EJ Litton

CHINESE Royal couple Ingrid and Patrick Go


INQUIRER columnist Maurice Arcache and Anton Mendoza

FIRMA friends Kitty Jacinto, Wynn Wynn Ong and Lulu Tan Gan

"AMAZING Race" couple Jeena and Ernie Lopez

DISNEY Princesses Chesca Garcia, Angel Aquino and Iya Villania

FINALISTS of "Philippine Idol" jam with Juan Miguel Salvador of Authority Band.

These masks ain't made for scarin'

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Merce Terama prefers happy faces that can hang in a home all year round

Text by [illegible]
Photo by [illegible]

IT'S HALLOWEEN, THE SEASON for masks.

[illegible]

Designing woman

[illegible]

[illegible]

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Sailing on the Sea of Galilee

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ON OCTOBER 11, WE DROVE FROM THE Doña Gracia Hotel in Tiberias to the Sea of Galilee where the nine of us from the Philippines, accompanied by our tour guide Jacob, took a boat.

The owner of the boat had a Philippine flag and he raised it as we sang the National Anthem and thought of home.

Bro. Eric Maliwat read Matthew 14:28-33 where Jesus tells Peter to leave the boat and walk on water. Peter obeyed but, getting scared when the wind blew harder, he started to sink. He cried out to Jesus, "Lord, save me." Jesus reached out and saved him.

We thanked God for making it possible for us to be there. The Sea of Galilee is about eight miles wide and 13 miles long. Its Hebrew name, "Kinneret," is the word for harp, the shape of the sea.

A boat was discovered in the mud at the sea's edge. It is now on exhibit at the Kibbutz Museum.

Caparnaum

Located near the Sea of Galilee, Caparnaum was the center of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. He lived there for a while, healing the sick, preaching and performing miracles.

We saw Peter's house where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law who had a fever. A Roman Catholic church of St. Peter was built on top of the ruins. The synagogue where Jesus preached had also been preserved.

Later, we visited the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha where a Byzantine church was discovered in 1932 and rebuilt in 1982. Mosaics were found, including those containing marshes and water birds plus a basket of loaves and two fishes.

Five Filipino nuns are assigned here. One of them, Sister Andrew, gave us cookies.

The church and the land belong to the Catholic Association of the Holy Land with the archbishop of Cologne as president. Benedictine monks of the Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem are entrusted with its care. They also take care of a home for the handicapped and a camp for religions groups.

Angel Weinstein, manager of tourism and incoming traffic development of El Al Israel Airlines, said 9,000 people came for the Feast of Tabernacle. Now that the war is over, he expects the number of visitors to increase further.

Cards

If you are looking for unique and not run-of-the-mill Christmas and gifts cards, tags, letter paper and other stationery items, try the Cupertino Center. You will also be helping a worthy project for disabled children. Executive director is Mariter Macapagal.

Cupertino Center, named after St. Joseph of Cupertino, is an organization that helps facilitate the acceptance and reentry of special young people into the mainstream of society.

Students are taught to make paper using *cogon* grass and other natural resources. The skillfully handcrafted paper is sent to a printer to be made into cards, with designs by well-known artists. The cards are sold at the center's shop.

For the coming holiday season, the center is unveiling a new array of designs. Look for the flower artwork of writer-painter Llita Logarta and her Christmas Madonna scene.

Cupertino Center is at Mangyan Road, La Vista Subdivision, Katipunan Avenue, QC, right beside Miriam College, tel. 9284115. Bernadette Angala is in charge of the paper shop.

Novena

The Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls (PWHS), a worldwide apostolate of the Monfort Foundation, is starting a nine-day novena for the Holy Souls at 9:45 a.m., Nov. 2, at the Antipolo Cathedral. A Holy Mass will be officiated by Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

An Advent Recollection for members and anyone interested will be held 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Nov. 11, at the Worship Hall of the Spirit of Love Catholic Community in the Manila Seedling Bank on Quezon Avenue corner Edsa. Call 5310394 or 5312157. Registration fee is P100.

Congregacion is 27

The Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus turns 27 today. The organization was formed in 1979. A Thanksgiving Mass will be held 6 p.m. at the Sto. Niño Chapel in the Violago Compound, E. Rodriguez St., Quezon City.

New officers and two new members will be inducted: Ricky Miranda, president; Chito Ilagan, vice president; Jesse Nell, secretary; Mel Chionglo, treasurer; board members Steve de Leon, Manolo Estrella, German Malabanan and Nolie Hans.

Chair is Jing Chua, while Ben Farrales is founding chair.

MENG Canlas and Chit Chua with the owner of the Holy Land Sailing Ltd.

This year's new members are Albert Zabala and Abraham Domingo de Castro.

Feast

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion is holding a Triduum of Masses to mark the feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Nov. 27-29, 11:45 a.m. at the Pamantasan ng Maynila Chapel and 6 p.m. at Colegio de San Agustin Chapel, Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

The First Holy Communion Mass for 500 public school children will be at 1:45 p.m., Dec. 2, at the Manila

Cathedral with Bishop Teodoro Bacani as celebrant.

Hermana mayor this year is Carrie Bautista. Hermana Mass is at 1:45 p.m. at the Cathedral followed by the Marian procession at 4 p.m. Main celebrant is Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan.

The second image of Virgen de los Remedios, patroness of Pampanga, will join the procession for the first time.

Milestones

SANTOS DEBUT

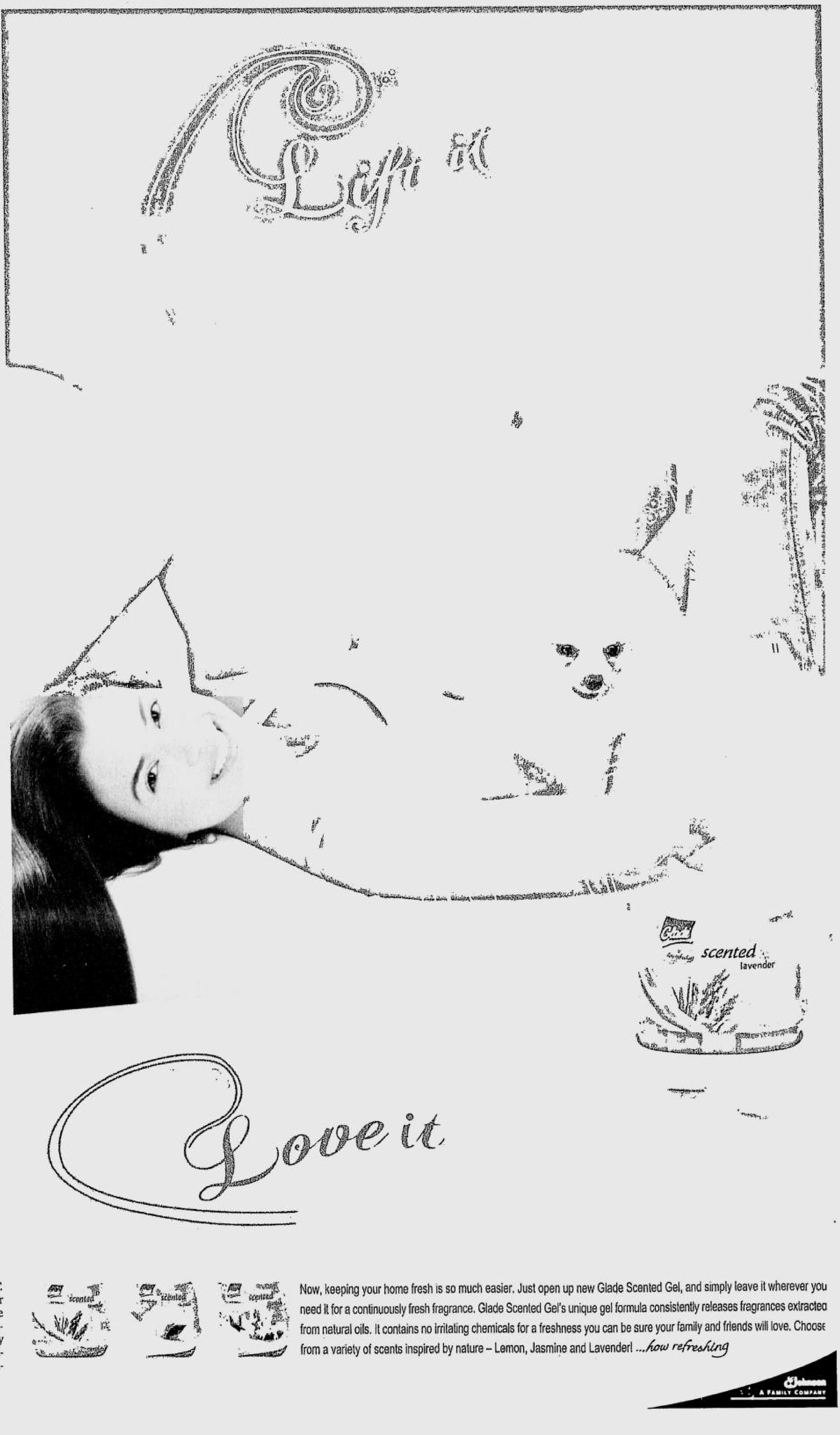
Rose L. Santos celebrated her 18th birthday recently at E's bar of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Clothes were by **Mila Santiago.**

DONGALLO DEBUT

Victoria Samantha "Samsam" Dongallo, daughter of **Dr. Victorio Dongallo,** celebrated her 18th birthday recently at the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila. She is a freshman nursing student at the College of the Holy Spirit. Her gown was by **Edward Teng.**

TUMPALAN DEBUT

Jana Francesca T. Tumpalan, daughter of **Ferdie and Jackie Tumpalan,** celebrated her debut recently at The Loft at Rockwell, Rockwell Center, Makati City.



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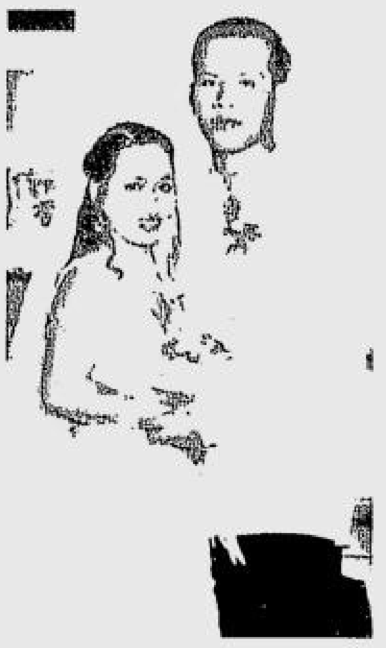
A FAMILY COMPANY

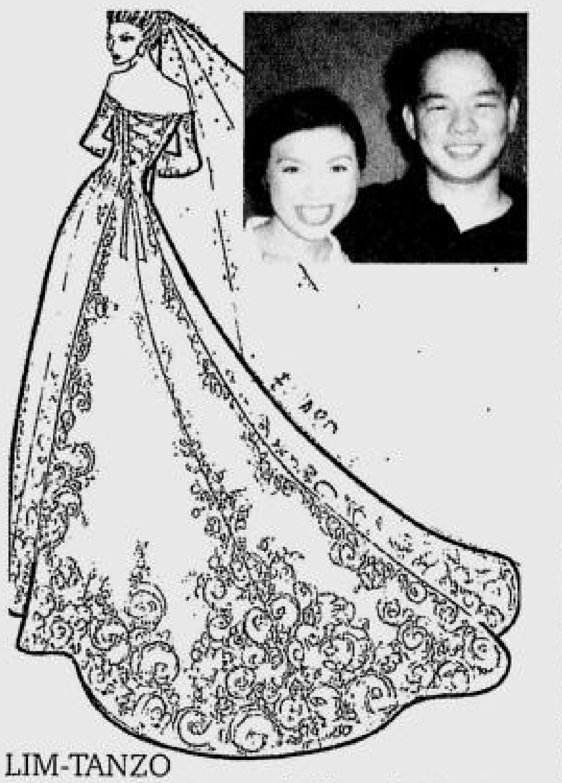
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



VELASQUEZ-PEREZ

Jayson Velasquez, son of **Melencio** and **Lenaida Velasquez**, exchanged vows recently with **Jocelyn Perez**, daughter of **Jose** and **Antonina Perez** , at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church, Kalibo Aklan. Reception was held at Le Pemy Garden, Kalibo, Aklan.



LIM-TANZO

Billy Sy Lim Jr., son of **Billy** and **Vicky** (nee Sy) Lim, will exchange vows with **Jasmin Escolar Tanzo**, daughter of **Emilio** (†) and **Mary Tanzo**, today at San Sebastian Church.

The bride will wear a white duchess sateen gown by **Leonard Co.**

ABLE-DE LEON

Alexander Able, son of **Alberto** and **Minda Able** of Arobo, and **Jocelyn Flor de Leon**, daughter of **Josefina Matic vda. de Leon**, will exchange vows on Dec. 5 at the Church of Our Lady of the Abandoned in Marikina City. Reception will follow at the Kapitan Moy-Bulwagang Bayani. The bride will wear a gown by **Merlene Marcelo** of MDesignwear.

Gown draws the curious to a wedding

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

ONE OF THE GRANDEST WEDDINGS of the year was that of Amanda Luym, only daughter of tycoon Douglas and Annabelle (née Corn) Luym, to Iker Aboitiz, youngest child of Enrique and Ma. Lourdes (née Mendieta) Aboitiz.

It was held at the Redemptorist fathers' parish. An overflow of guests and curious people came for varied reasons—one was the union of two very prominent families in the community; another was Amanda's gown was by Cebu-born Monique Lhuillier.

The bride entered the church alone, joining her parents mid-way to the altar where Iker waited with his best man, Marcelino Ugarte. Amanda's bridal bouquet was a cascade of rare orchids arranged by her mother.

Rev. Fr. Arsenio Nuñez concelebrated the nuptial mass with Rev. Fr. Ernesto Javier, SJ, and Msgr. Achilles Dakay.

Principal sponsors were Luis Aboitiz and his wife Annabelle (née Osmeña); Endika Aboitiz and his wife Valeria Cavestany, the famous painter; Eduardo Cojuangco and his wife Gretchen (née Oppen); Erramon Aboitiz and his sister, Eukene Aboitiz de Aboitiz; David Lu; and Iker's aunt, Carolina Aboitiz de Diaz who came from Madrid for the wedding.

SARAH Lozada and Luis Marcos Hernandez

Amanda's cousin, Cacay Moras, was maid of honor. Also in the wedding entourage were bridesmaids Anna Thelmo, Candice Gotianuy and Ma. Cristina Villareal; groomsmen John Unchuan, Nicolas Paradies and Antonio Aboitiz; ring-bearer Kasen Aboitiz; and flower girls Jasmine Arculli, Clara Elizalde, Jone Aboitiz and Adriana Aboitiz.

Cecile Cuisia was lector during the mass. In the offertory procession were Dwight Lu and Silvia Ludo, bearing the candles; Danel Aboitiz and Daisy Lu, the bread and wine; Sabin and Bettina (née Araneta) Aboitiz, the chalice and ciboriu.

Beautiful music was rendered by the Peace Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Roberto del Rosario. Greenery and white flowers were in profusion all over the church's altar, aisle and Greek columns, all to the credit of Rosebud Sala.

Reception followed at the Atlantic ballroom of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel where more than 600 guests oohed and aahed at the décor by Teresin Mendozona, Pinky Chang and Jaime Chua.

Surrounding hallways were transformed into an exotic garden of rare blooms. Inside, there were trellises with colorful flowers, making the event look like a May Day fete in Camelot.

Various buffet tables were laden with specialties, like *jamon Serrano* specially flown in from Spain, and the famous "Bacalao" made from a recipe in Lulu Aboitiz's treasure chest of cuisine.

AMANDA Luym and Iker Aboitiz

Toasts were made by the fathers of the bride and groom. For the rest of the night, it was dancing to the beat of Mon Villanueva and his Renaissance Band. Never mind if they did assault our eardrums.

Lozada-Hernandez

Also held at the Redemptorist parish on a sunny afternoon was the wedding of Sarahlee Lozada, daughter of Antonio Jorge and Grace (née Guinocor) Lozada, to Luis Marcos Hernandez whose family is based in California. His father, Alfred Louis Hernandez, is of Mexican/Danish descent, while his mother, Doña Mirtha Emperatriz, is Peruvian.

Main celebrant at the nuptial Mass was Rev. Fr. Louie Punzalan, SVD. Sponsors were Dr. Robin Lee with Dr. Carmencita Senseng; Dr. Ricky Dakay and Nenette Lozada; Eduardo and Therese Gonzalez; Ludwig and Perla Ceballos; honorary consul of the Netherlands in Cebu, Roberto Aboitiz, and his wife Ma. Cristina (née Cabarrus); honorary consul of Sweden Jose Sala and his wife Susan (née Montenegro).

Ana Maria Aboitiz was maid of honor while best man was Esko Homsi, who came for the purpose from San Francisco.

In the wedding entourage were bridesmaids Candy Uy, Kathryne Ceballos, Doris Hernandez and Kristin Bautista; groomsmen Lee Lozada (the bride's brother), Judd Pimentel, Javier Sala and Angel Dizon; junior bridesmaid Liezel Guinocor; ring and coin bearer Anthony Lozada; and flower girl Kelsea Dizon.

Attending to the bridal couple during the rites were Ezra Pages and Rocio Ann Rentuza, candle sponsors; Tristan Roberto Aboitiz and Dr. Ellen Guinoco, veil sponsors; Randy Pages and Margaux Ozaraga, cord sponsors.

Even if it was still daylight when the wedding ceremony was over, and the reception at the Casino Español was scheduled for the evening, almost everyone proceeded to the casino where, at the air-conditioned Salon Madrid, the photographer set up a studio for souvenir photos.

While cameras clicked, everyone watched, listened to a Latin combo, sipped champagne, and nibbled on finger food. Before they knew it, it was 7 p.m., time for the reception.

A red carpet led to Salon de España, transformed into the elaborate tent of some legendary medieval monarch by Teresin and Pinky.

The management of Casino Español was congratulated for the impeccable service, delicious food, attentive waiters.

UnionBank Takes the Lead With PLDT's Hosted OnCall Solution

It's been a great year so far for UnionBank. The 24 year-old pioneering establishment has a host of notable firsts under its belt—from online banking to the Philippines' first electronic savings account system. Its acquisition last June of the International Exchange Bank sets it as the seventh-largest bank in the country, with combined assets of 168 billion pesos and 191 branches. Flourishing among older financial institutions in the Philippines, UnionBank has held its own in the big leagues.

UnionBank decided to acquire the PLDT Hosted OnCall solution for its newest call center to accommodate a growing customer base. In the dizzying frenzy of the BPO phenomenon, hosted business solutions are now getting noticed by industry players, with many set on making the switch. Immediate benefits include quicker return on investments (ROI) and access to killer applications otherwise harder to support internally on a premise-based solution. Aptly partnered with Avaya, a trusted name in the international contact center industry, PLDT's Hosted OnCall Solution allows companies to focus on their core business without worrying about managing infrastructure and technology.

"We are able to monitor the service levels of the call center and constantly improve quality through coaching and mentoring of our Customer Service Officers," says Dinesh M. Sahijwani, UnionBank's AVP and Contact Center Head. "The other benefit of the hosted solution is you do not worry about the upgrades in the system; you will always be part of the latest in the industry with no extra cost."

UnionBank is happily reaping the benefits of a hosted customer relations management (CRM) solution. "Productivity and efficiency did improve," Sahijwani says. "We are able to check the agent's performance in real time and forecast the call volume for the coming months." He acknowledges ICT upgrades as crucial enablers in the financial and customer service industries. "As technology constantly changes, we at UnionBank ensure our customers are provided the utmost convenience when transacting with the bank, thus the upgrade to PLDT's Hosted OnCall Solution. Enabling businesses in the Philippines with top-shelf ICT infrastructure will eventually lead the country to become a significant player in the global market."

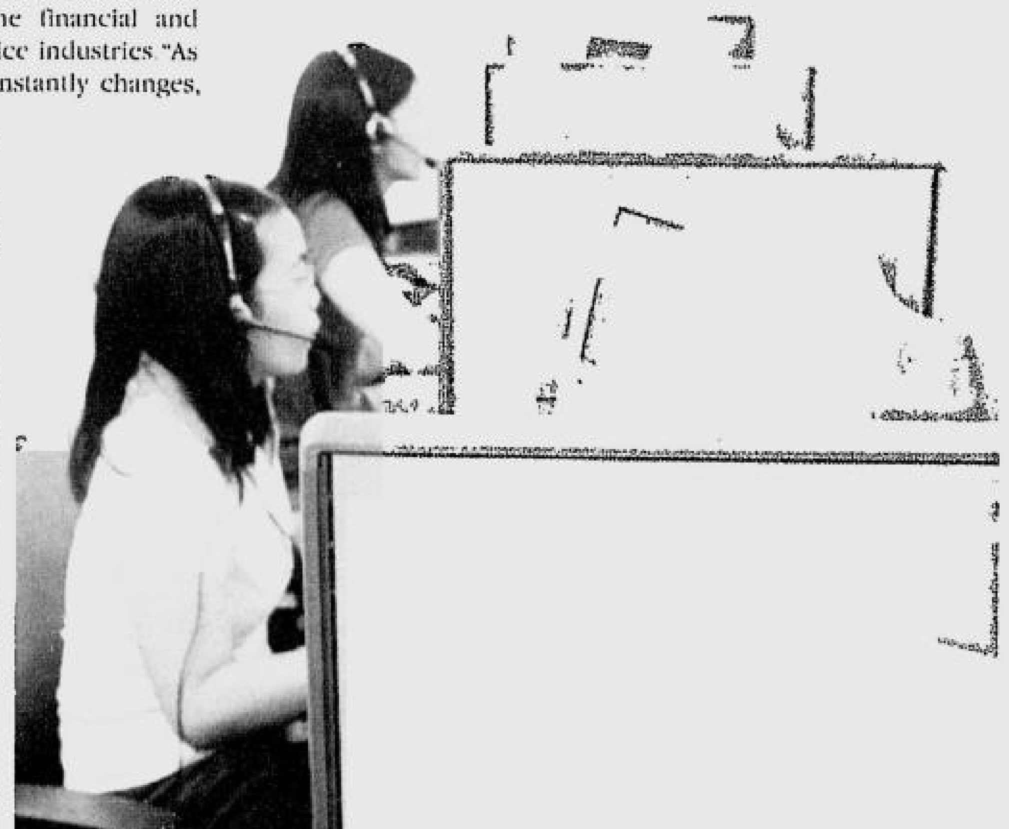
"In telecommunications, you are either number 1 or number 2," said Victor B. Valdepeñas, President of UnionBank, "We preferred dealing with number 1 and therefore we chose PLDT."

"We are delighted that UnionBank, a leader in the banking industry, is acting true to form," said Eric R. Alberto, PLDT SVP and Head of Corporate Business Group, "They are taking a timely lead in realizing the productivity and efficiency benefits of wise investments in ICT. As always, PLDT will be a strong enabling partner to business and move towards having similar competitive enterprises make the same realization."

"As ever, we are proud to partner with leaders in their industries like UnionBank who recognize the key advantages in ICT," said Napoleon L. Nazareno, PLDT and SMART President and CEO. "By further enabling their call centers with enhanced PLDT OnCall features, they have demonstrated their confidence and trust in us and we will keep working hard to always be deserving of that honor."

Standing L-R: SMART Head of Corporate Business Group, Jay Lagdameo, PLDT Voice Services Head, Gregg Templo, PLDT Relationship Manager, Michelle Cruzado, Union Bank EVP for Corporate Banking Center, Guia Lim, Union Bank EVP for Retail Product Banking, Nilo Pacheco, and Union Bank EVP for Corporate Product Banking, Hermie Pugeda

Seated L-R: PLDT Business Head Kat Luna-Abelarde, PLDT FVP, Cesar Enriquez, PLDT SVP and Head of CBG, Eric Alberto, PLDT and SMART President and CEO, Napoleon Nazareno, Union Bank President and COO, Victor Valdepeñas, Union Bank EVP and Channel Management Center Head, Teodoro Panganiban, Union Bank FVP General Manager Card Center, Manuel Santiago, and Union Bank AVP, Contact Center Head, Dinesh Sahijwani.



Union Bank agents in action using PLDT's Hosted OnCall Solution.

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Log on, fly free and enjoy the islands

Ace Durano's team is tapping technology to entice a new generation of Filipino-Americans to favor RP as a destination

Text and photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso

THERE THEY ARE ON THE Sunday afternoon of a three-day weekend, milling about the gates of a Las Vegas auditorium. To the American media, they are "Filipino-Americans," one of the biggest hyphenated communities in the United States. To the Philippine government, media and businesses, they are "Global Filipinos," a market ripe for road shows and all sorts of selling schemes. But, among themselves, they refer to one another as "Pinoy," plain and simple.

Instead of mowing the lawn, whittling down the week's wash or doing any chore that is normally nontransferable and nonnegotiable on any American weekend, these Pinoys are waiting to be let in into the exciting experience of being in the audience of a popular Filipino TV variety show.

There are elderly couples on whose faces and tongues traces of the old hometown are etched permanently. There are families who have driven into Vegas from cities near and far in vans newly purchased with their hefty tax refunds. There are folks in wheelchairs for whom the event qualifies as extreme sport—it is too hot and dry a day really to be sitting out in the sun, and the guards are not particularly disabled-friendly.

And then there are the non-Filipinos married to this mob of star-struck and homesick immigrants, a United Nations of spouses who have been dragged into the arena for the thrill of donating money, winning a prize, watching sexy Pinay dancers up-close and personal or some other adventure televised Pinoy style.

The show is "Wowowee" and it is being staged and taped at the Thomas & Mack auditorium of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, for broadcast by ABS-CBN the subsequent Saturday in the Philippines and Sunday in the US through The Filipino Channel. No less than Charo Santos-Concio, one of the network's top executives, is sitting front row with the top sponsors to make sure everything goes well for this Vegas edition.

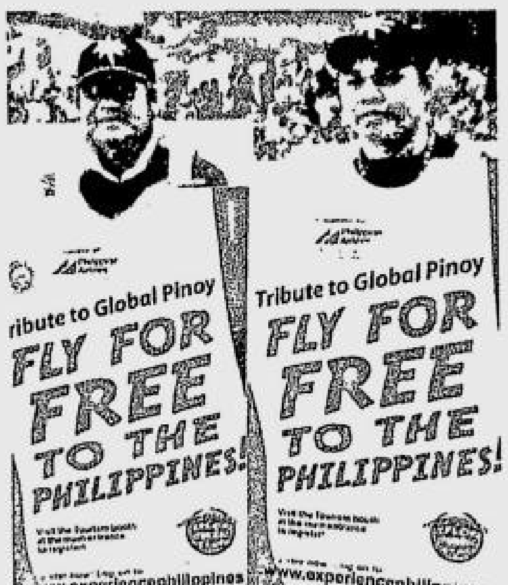
Free tickets

Since the television cameras are rolling until 7 p.m., the early birds have plenty of time to register with the Department of Tourism either online using the computers onsite or by filling out forms. To encourage online registration, the DOT has been giving free roundtrip tickets to the Philippines via PAL.

Why the need for free tickets? Aren't Pinoys in First World America living it up and can very well afford to book a trip to the republic of their roots?

"Half of the half-a-million tourists a year we get from the US and Canada are *balik-*

LOG ON/ D2



WALKERS advertise the free-flight program awarding 250 roundtrip tickets to RP, courtesy of the tourism department and Philippine Airlines, to residents and citizens of Canada and the USA whose names were drawn after they registered online via the DOT website.

A project of
MABUHAY!

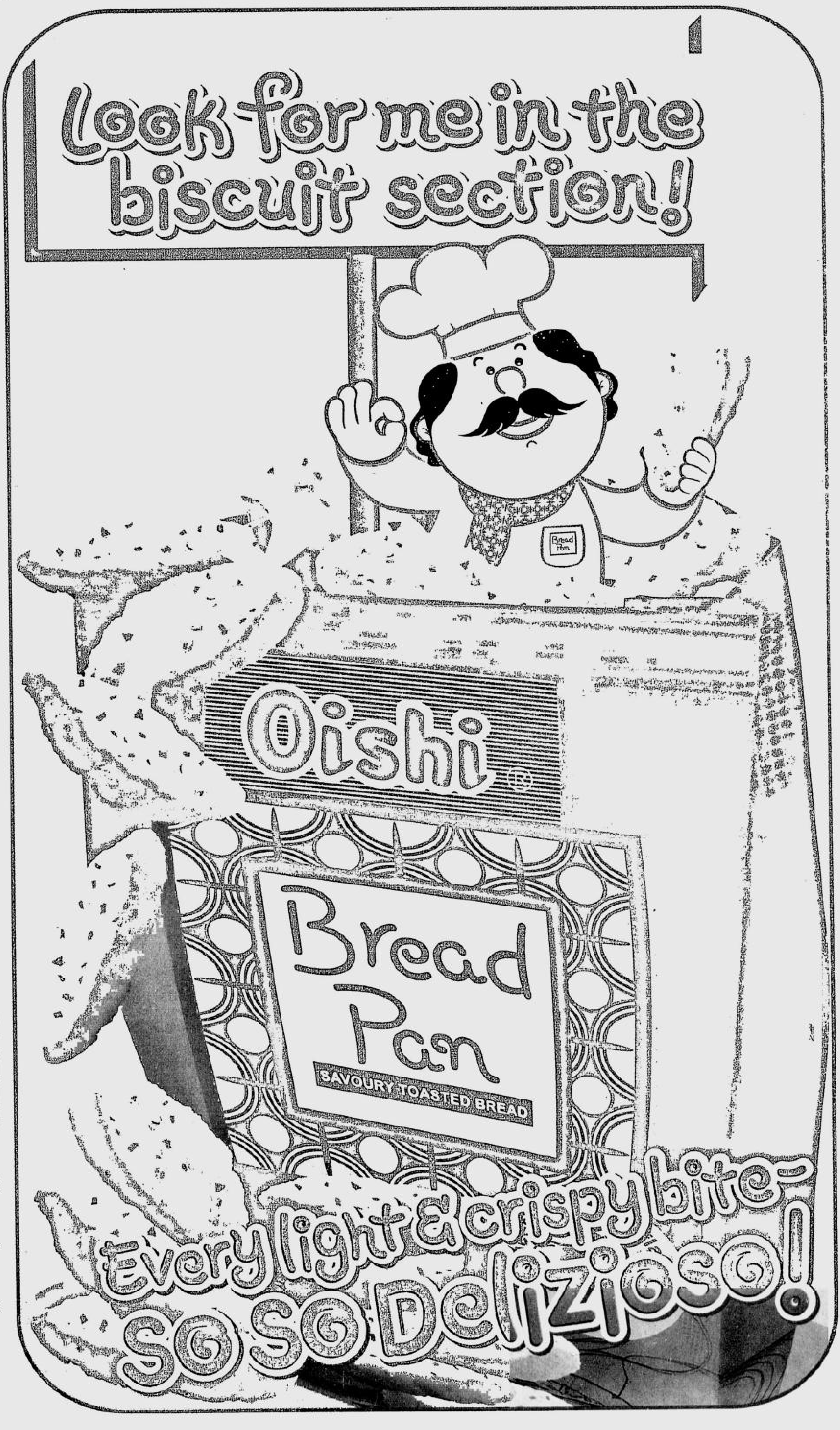
WARM WELCOME TO FIRST BATCH OF "FREE-FLIGHT" WINNERS FROM USA
Tourism officials headed by Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. recently welcomed the first batch of winners of "The Great Philippine Free-Flight Giveaway" online raffle promo.

The winners—13 US-based Filipinos and foreigners—were greeted with a lei and *rondalla* reception upon arrival. The winners were also feted to breakfast at a five-star hotel.

Their names were picked via the promo's first online draw at the annual Fiesta Filipina celebration in San Francisco, California, in June.

Among the first batch were Ma. Theresa Corpuz (Toronto) and Violeta Alvarez (Washington), Ludina Malit and Divina Frigillana (Arizona), Medy Hernandez (Illinois). Winners from California are: Angelito Sembrano, Eliza Bernstein, Emilia Ordanza, Christina Ocampo, Edmundo Mangubat, Maria Luisa Hernandez, Nestor Cornejo and Frederico Malaca.

Said one winner, Medy Hernandez, "The last time I returned to the Philippines was for a family emergency. This time I'll be on vacation exploring parts of my native country that I've never been."



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Bread Pan
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MARIAH
Tuloy po Kayo

THE MANY faces of Pinoys in America who came to watch the Filipino variety show "Wowowee" hosted by Willie Revillame (shown here doing a caped Elvis Presley impersonation)

Log on, fly free and enjoy [illegible] is

From page D1

bayan, yet that's only 300,000 out of 3.3 million Filipinos who live in that part of the world. That's only one-tenth," notes Ma. Corazon Jorda-Apo, head of the DOT's Team North America.

That one-tenth is the same pack that travels back and forth between their new country and the old hometown with no need for prompting or promos from tourism agencies.

But what about the other nine-tenths? Clearly it is a big market that can be enticed by a whole slew of vacation episodes designed to cater to Pinoy immigrants. After all, text messaging, Pinoy cable TV channels, e-mail and websites have enabled Filipino migrants not only to maintain relationships with folks back home that are closer than ever but also to acquaint them with what the Philippines has to offer by way of scenic, cultural and leisure experiences. If anything, these exposures should fuel a longing to make contact face to face.

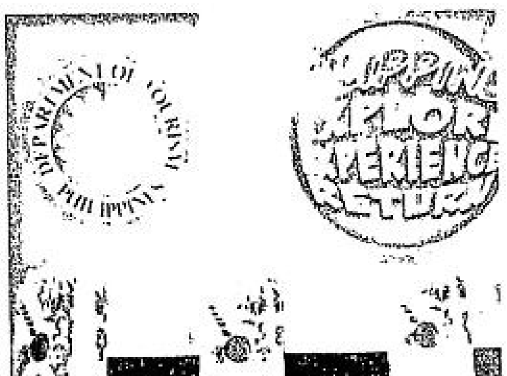
Only takes one

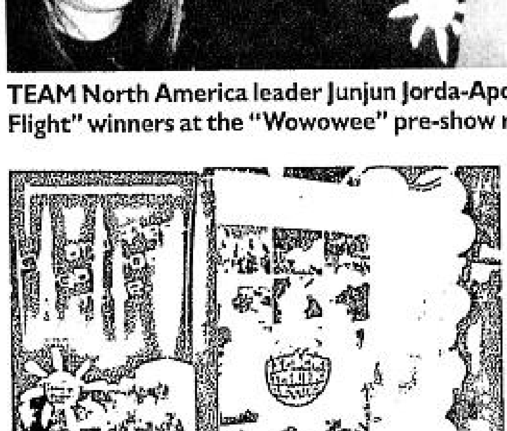
But it seems the younger generations of Filipino-Americans, born in the USA and with only their parents' memories to connect them to their ancestral country, would rather travel to destinations other than the Philippines.

DOT consultant Robert "Ram" Antonio fervently believes that one visit to the Philippines is all it will take to get them hooked and keep them coming back. "One trip to Boracay should do it," he says with confidence. Indeed, survey results bear him out. According to Jorda-Apo, the surveys built into the DOT website have shown that Boracay is the No. 1 destination for *balikbayans*.

The DOT, however, decides to dangle more than just the beautiful beaches of Boracay to reel in all generations of Pinoys in the Northern Hemisphere and turn them into what the travel industry calls "home trotters." In fact it has launched a two-part "grand tourism campaign" aimed at increasing the number of tourist arrivals from the US and Canada.

TEAM North America leader Junjun Jorda-Apo (left) with "Free-Flight" winners at the "Wowowee" pre-show raffle





The first part of "The Philippines: Explore. Experience. Return" (Peer) program, billed as "Free Flight," was launched in San Francisco, California, in June, in cooperation with Philippine Airlines. To date the DOT has given away 250 round-trip tickets to the Philippines, the last 100 of which are to be awarded just before the "Wowowee" show in Vegas.

With its specific focus on second-generation Filipinos in America whose affairs are more Internet-based, part two of the campaign, nicknamed "Out of the Box," is designed to draw more attention to the Department of Tourism website, which is in the process of adding a hooking engine for booking and confirming travel arrangements online to entice a worldwide web of Filipinos to come home.

For everyone

The promo, however, is open to all permanet residents and passport holders of the US and Canada who travel to RP between November 2006 to October 2007. All they have to do is log on to www.experiencephilippines.ph and input their final flight details to qualify for the monthly electronic raffle draw. Already the DOT website has generated some five million hits, and 70,000 registered travelers.

The prizes that are being raffled off, says Jorda-Apo, are "iconic of modern Philippines" and are "transferable to whoever the winners nominate." Consisting of real property, home appliances, sports club membership, pension and remittance packages, eye treatment, and all kinds of domestic tour packages, the prizes have been pledged by generous sponsors like the Shangri-La group of hotels and real estate property, Philippine Airlines, Globe, Philippine National Bank, Avis, Mango Tours, Abenson and American Eye Center.

Besides the monthly draw, there will be an annual draw in November where the grand prize is a condominium unit in the St. Francis Tower.

On the average, according to Jorda-Apo, *balikbayans* stay for 12 days, but they stay with relatives most of the time. They therefore do not spend as much as regular tourists do on hotel, food, shopping, tours, and other travel products and services.

"Our challenge is to make them go around and spend their tourist dollars," adds Jorda-Apo whose 10-member Team North America, along with consultant Tomas B. Lopez, is the very arm that is tasked to reach out to the members of this diaspora. Tourism Secretary Ace Durano created the team to provide support for all Philippine tourism attaches in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Their even more important challenge, however, is to give the new generations of Pinoys in America the experiences that will gain them an appreciation of the landscape, the culture and the past that their elders have left behind.

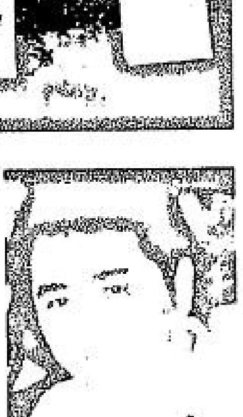
Drawing the young

Part two of the Peers program will hopefully address this need. If these young Filipino-Americans book a trip to the Philippines between now and November 2007, they can qualify for tour packages through the online raffle promo. Among the choices are a heritage package (tour of the rice terraces and the ancient burial caves with hanging coffins in Ifugao-Sagada), an adventure package (the underground river, a Unesco World Heritage site, in Palawan), a culinary package (demonstration of famous sweets and native delicacies in Pampanga and Bulacan), or a dive package (the marine sanctuary and underwater gardens in Puerto Galera), among others.

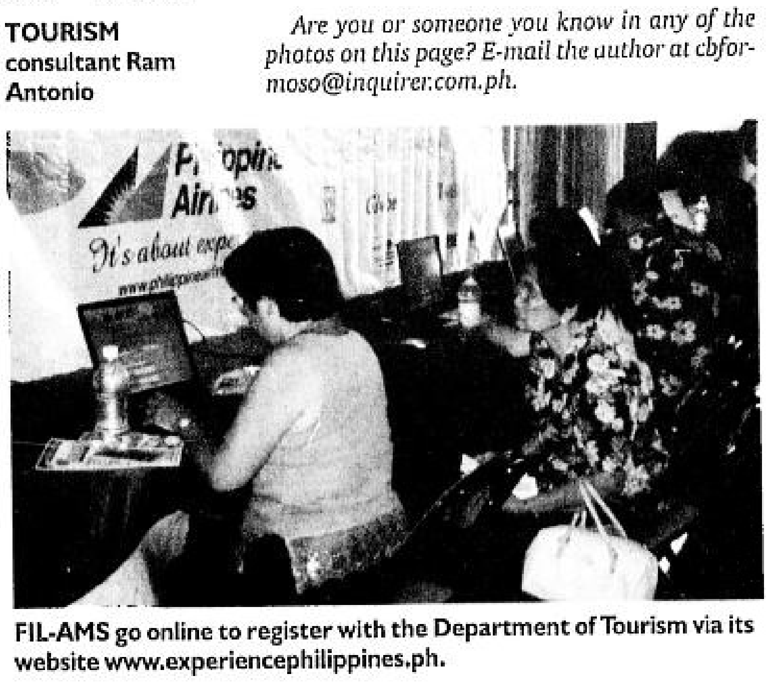
Last but not least, there is a beach package tour of Boracay which does not need more buzz than the promise of lazing around a beach with powdery white sand and a mesmerizing sunset.

Of course, if Boracay is not enough attraction, the DOT can always throw in tickets to "Wowowee."

Are you or someone you know in any of the photos on this page? E-mail the author at cbformoso@inquirer.com.ph.



TOURISM consultant Ram Antonio



FIL-AMS go online to register with the Department of Tourism via its website www.experiencephilippines.ph.

Wife's family obligations keep her from having children

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I'm an OFW somewhere in the Middle East, and so is my wife. We have been married two years. I'm getting old but my wife is only in her early 30s.

My problem is, I really want to have kids but she doesn't because, as the eldest, she is the designated breadwinner in her family. We haven't made plans because of her huge obligation to them.

I can't wait any longer for her to finish this obligation. I'm much older than her and I feel depressed when I see my friends and my siblings carrying their young. And I don't think we will be able to support two families.

I know a lot of people who can support two families but, given her parents' demand on her, I could never give my kid a good future. I want my kid to have everything I didn't have when I was young.

The point is I really would like to start my own and not to worry about her family. Discussing this has become a problem for us. She feels her first obligation is her family, not me.

I'm pretty tired of this situation. I love her but she loves her family more than she loves me. And I'm thinking of finding someone who can give me what I want, but I really love her.

OLD OFW

How old is old? And what is old to you? Chronologically? In spirit? Physically? If you're in your 50s now and already feel "old," then you're really too old to start a family.

Can you imagine yourself literally running after your kids, or not being able to stop working even when you have to—having to feather your nest relentlessly to secure a good future for them? Age would really take a huge toll on you. But, if you feel vibrant and young, the numbers adding up on you now are a non-factor.

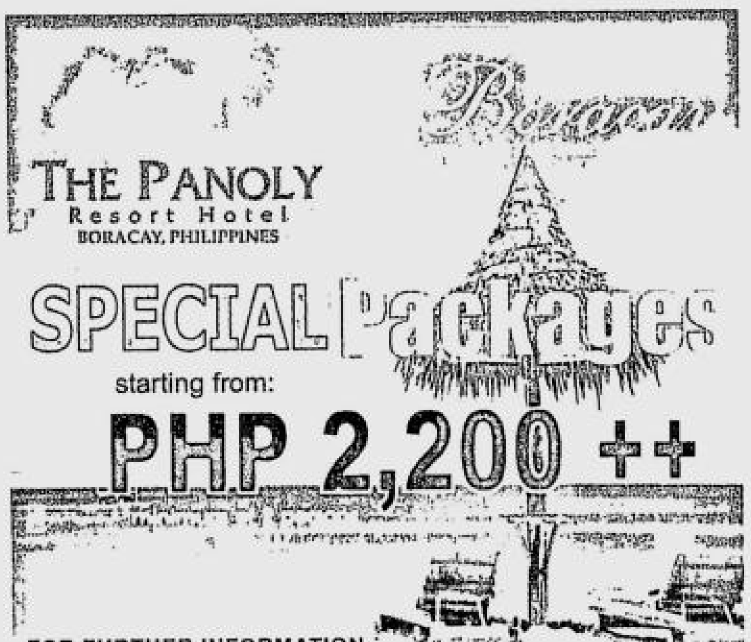
Did she renege on a promise to have children with you? Was that part of your marital plans? Possibly, your worry now is not only your wife not wanting a child. It is more her financial obligation to her family that is bugging you. Did she hide her huge burden during your courtship or is it you who wants to ignore or give up on it now?

How did you court someone so young anyway? Didn't you realize she'd need nurturing? Is she a trophy wife? If your young wife loves her family more than she loves you, you have a problem here. Too bad marriage cannot be switched off when the going gets rough!

Try talking to her about your dilemma. Something's bound to be resolved—good or bad for you. If you truly love her as you declare, accept her so, warts and all. She might appreciate your patience and generosity and, in the long run, bear you a child finally.

Good things come to those who wait, they say. But if this continues to bug you and makes your existence intolerable, then just ask yourself if it's all worth it. Life is too short to be miserable.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*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Rides are lessons in past and future

THE TIME TUNNEL

STAR CITY HAS THREE NEW ATTRACTIONS for the holiday season designed to delight and get kids more interested in history.

The new attractions feature spectacular renditions of some of the world's most unforgettable moments in time.

Star City offers daily a mix of shopping, food, rides and attractions, from 1 p.m. on weekdays and from 4 p.m. on weekends.

In the Time Tunnel, visitors are transported through a swirling maze of past and future ages. The Time Tunnel features a stunning audio-visual presentation on humankind's history in roughly five minutes.

The Dungeon offers a life-like recreation of some of history's most gruesome events. People will experience the spine-tingling horror of torture, beheading, plague and murder in Europe. Every feature here actually happened in real life.

At the Ice Palace, the mythical world of ancient Greece comes alive with scenes taken from the legend of Hercules, captured in larger-than-life ice sculptures handcrafted by some of today's best Filipino artisans.

Now on its 15th year, Star City features convenient location, affordable pricing and ever-changing line-up. It had the country's first double-deck carousel, the first loop coaster and the first flume ride, among others.

Its latest acquisition, the first and only Tsunami ride in the country, is one of only four in the world. Also known as the Surf Dance, the Tsunami Ride is a gondola the height of a five-story building and is capable of swinging upwards, downward and sideways.

At the Aliw and Star Theaters, Circus de Ballet presents its unique "ballet meets the Big Top" presentations "Princess of the Moon" and "Munting Anghel," combining the world-class dancing of Ballet Manila (led by prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde) and some of the country's finest circus performers.

Star City offers under one roof 33 rides and attractions, two theaters, 140 retail outlets, 100 food choices and 60 games.

Entrance fee is P50 while a Ride-All-You-Can pop tag costs P190. Star City is at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

GIANT aqua-blue fairy wings with glittery crown and swirling designs

Spooktacularly dressed for Halloween

IT'S HALLOWEEN PARTY TIME. KIDS CAN make sure they are suitably dressed by visiting Toy Kingdom for spooktacular costumes.

Toy Kingdom has an amazing assortment of hats—fun and feathery, creepy and crawly, scary but zany.

Boys can dress as swashbuckling pirates or dashing superheroes, while little girls can don magical fairy wings.

Join the Halloween party at Toy Kingdom stores at SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM City Fairiew, SM Southmall, V Mall, the Mall of Asia, as well as the TK store at The Podium.

In the provincial areas, Halloween costumes are available at Toy Kingdom stores at SM City Pampanga, SM City Clark, SM City Lucena, SM City Marilao, SM City Baguio, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Bacoor, and SM City Batangas in Luzon; as well as the SM Malls in the Visayas-Mindanao area.

SA BAWAT PATAK NG TIWALA

Sa ang iyong pamily ang kaligta:
pa uhan nila. Sa yo la gtil ala Kaya para s
Distille king Water malinis at ligt a sa buong pamilya
n nalo tatlumpung ng pamawi-uhaw pamparelax at pampalusog.
mpan nay inuming sasago yong bawat pangangailangan
P. njc n ar awa patak ng buhay.

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ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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at HOME

Pinoy furniture reaches its crystal age

ALL THAT GLITTERS. Setting 2—(from left): Graphic chair, Oracle divider (back), woven Greyhounds (front), Full Bloom lounge chair in black

Collaborating with Swarovski, Carlo Tanseco adds more glitter to his furniture designs

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Ryan Lim

IN THE HANDS OF A LESS disciplined artist, "Swarovski-crystalled" furniture would probably have been glittery but gaudy, a tasteless attempt at creating a look of luxury and opulence.

Swarovski obviously knew that. Constantly searching for ways to showcase the versatility of its products, the Austria-based company had "lent" its crystals only to people it knew would project, even enhance, the image it wanted for its products, pieces that are just a little lower in value than real gems.

Quite fortuitously, Carlo Tanseco was in a constant search—for new materials, for innovations, for new twists he could introduce to his already celebrated furniture and home accessories designs.

After almost a year of casual exchanges, a collaborative project between the searchers—the architect-turned-furniture-designer and Swarovski—finally crystallized, pun intended.

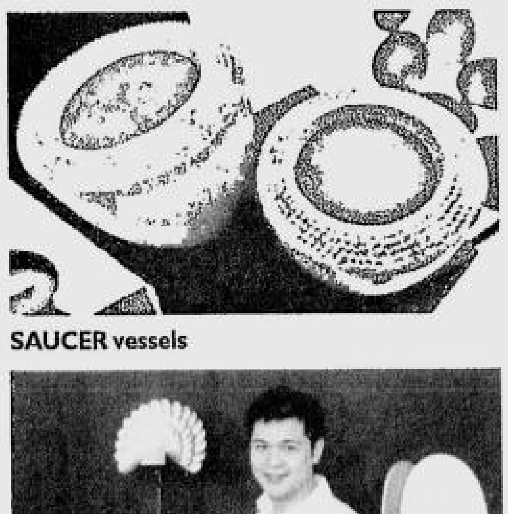
The resulting items made their debut during the recent October edition of the twice-a-year Manila FAME (Furnishings and Apparel Manufacturers Exchange).

Of the partnership that was formally forged only some three months ago, the thirtysomething Tanseco said: "I wanted to introduce something different (to both) old and new designs. I always try something different and (using the crystals) was having value added to traditional products."

Crossing

He said he was thinking of moving into a totally different line of furniture and houseware and was looking for new materials when he crossed paths with the Swarovski people, who were thinking of having Filipino designers incorporate their crystals into their work.

PINOY/ E2



SAUCER vessels

ANGELIC is the designer on his winged Icarus chair in gold with Icarus luminaires at the back.

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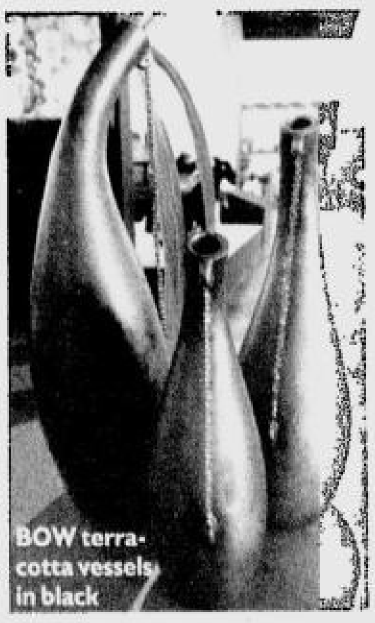
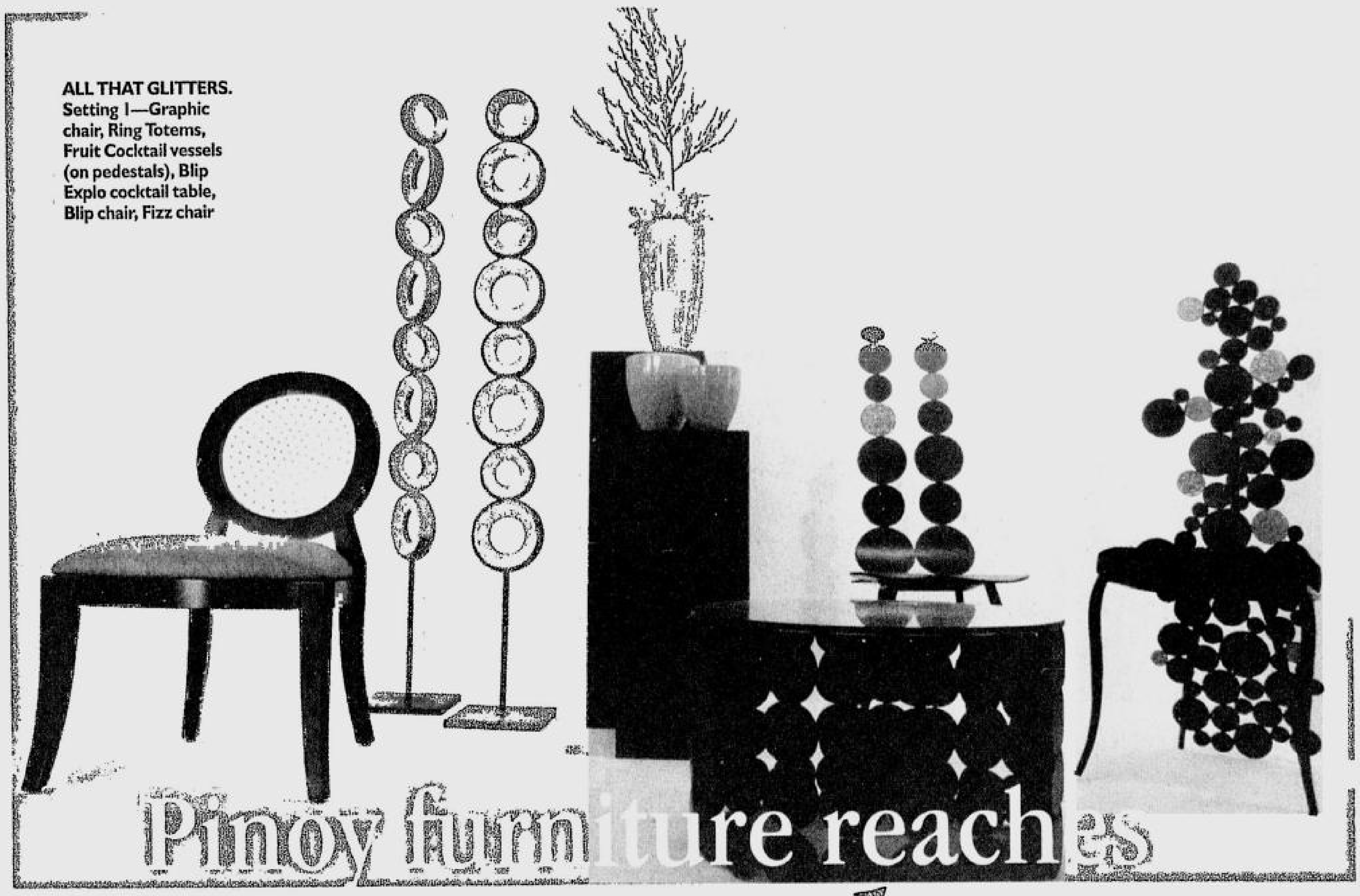
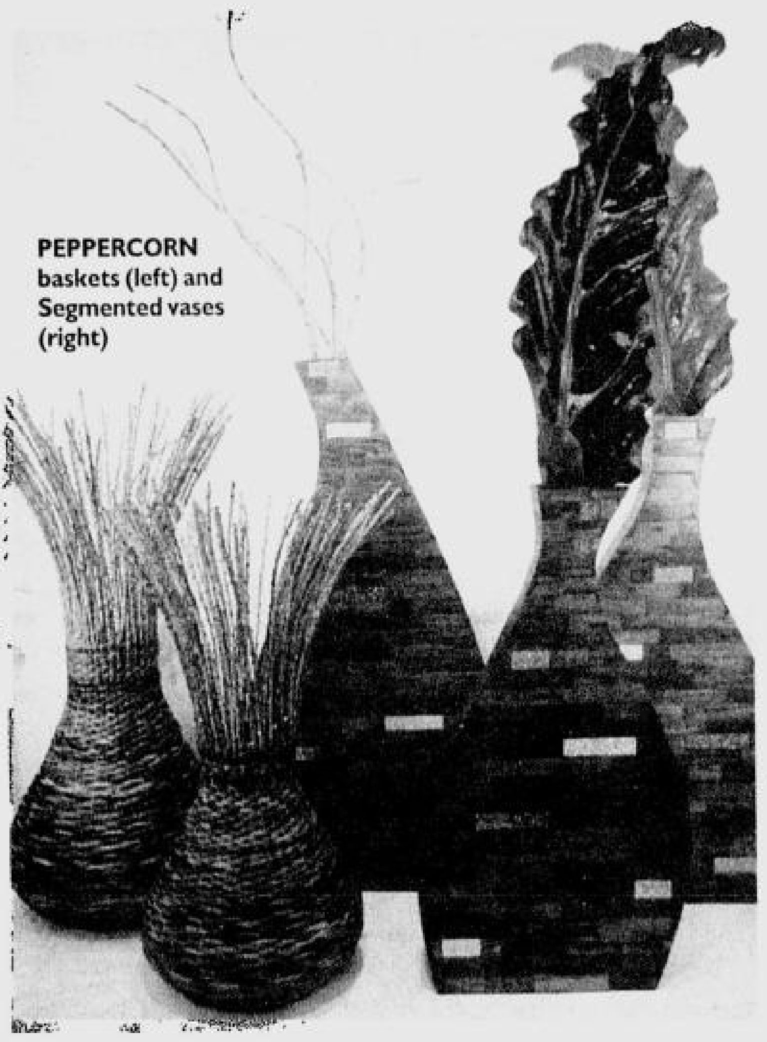

BOW terra-cotta vessels in black

BANGLE terra-cotta vessels


ALL THAT GLITTERS. Setting 1—Graphic chair, Ring Totems, Fruit Cocktail vessels (on pedestals), Blip Explo cocktail table, Blip chair, Fizz chair

Pinoy furniture reaches its crystal age


PEPPERCORN baskets (left) and Segmented vases (right)

From page E1

But getting the project off the ground took a while "because we wanted to launch it properly. It couldn't be launched in a small way."

Manila FAME, launching pad for many award-winning designs, was the clear and natural choice for the unveiling of the "Evolution" exhibit that also included accents and accessories, some signaling a new direction for the designer, others interesting reworking of familiar pieces and materials.

Olivier Camus, vice-president operations for North and Southeast Asia Pacific, said: "Our collaboration with Carlo Tanseco for the Evolution Exhibit of Manila FAME is our first approach to the interior segment in the Philippines. (It) is the first major project of Swarovski in Asia."

Before working with the Filipino designer, Swarovski had collaborated with interior design professionals and students in Europe and the United Kingdom on the use of crystals for furniture and home accessories and accents.

Show pieces

Tanseco assures prospective customers that, while the addition of Swarovski crystals raises the pieces' prices a bit, they can keep the costs within their budgets by how much glitter they want. The pieces he prepared for the Manila FAME, the designer said, were obviously for show.

"They were designed to wow," was how he put it.

And, indeed, they wowed—not in a screaming, hysterical way but in hushed, awed tones. Though Tanseco obviously had carte blanche in the use of Swarovski pieces, his wow pieces were head-turners not because of their generous use of crystals but by the tasteful blending of materials.

Whether in the decorative baskets, the wooden dividers or metal flower chair, the crystals were added in such a way that they were almost like natural parts of the main materials used.

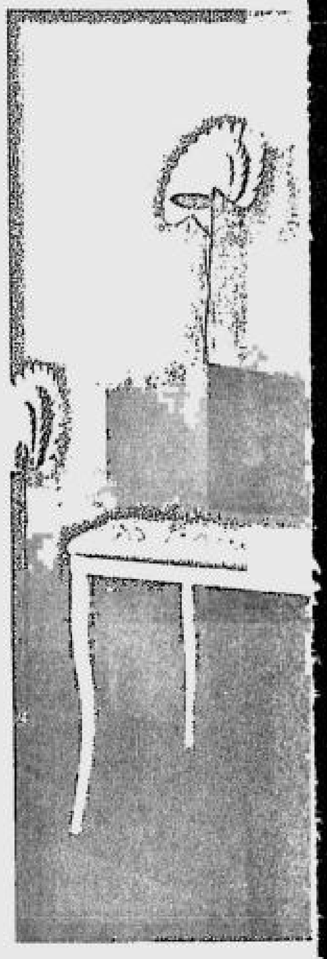
Other designers might have made the mistake of making the crystals call attention to themselves, ruining the impact of the total design, but in Tanseco's deft and creative hands, the Swarovski pieces blended seamlessly, allowing each piece to be admired as a whole, glitters included.

He might have been tempted to go over the top but his artistry and innate discipline ensured that the pieces were not ostentatious and that they remained within the boundaries of good taste. The pieces were subtly elegant, as pleasing to the eye as they were comfortable and functional.

Tanseco said his designs, specifically for furniture, were always informed by four F's—form, function, familiarity and frivolity. Lest anyone misunderstands, frivolity, as Tanseco uses it, simply refers to a spirit of fun, a little bit of playfulness.

The Filipino designer is unfazed by design pirates. He said Filipinos kept ahead of the competition by continuously innovating, using materials available only in the country or mixing materials to confound copycats.

Tanseco says he draws inspiration from nature. "If you look at it [nature], there's a science to it, there's a design, and a structure."


THE WINGED Icarus chair
but is strong enough to hol

The gift

By Kathleen Ong
Contributor

Organizer: What's this?
Client: It was a gift.
O: Do you like it?
C: It was given by a friend.
O: Do you like it?
C: Not really, but she might look for it.

Gifts can be a source of joy *and* stress. Gift clutter is a particularly sensitive topic. Whether it's a present from your mother-in-law or a handmade gift, getting rid of gifts that don't suit you can be difficult to deal with since it stirs emotions like guilt, worry and even fear.

The new 'rule'

Does anyone recall any rule that says we have to keep gifts we get? I only know the "Never insult a gift and always accept graciously" part. Here's a thought: When we give someone a present, it's theirs. When you get a present, it's yours. Gifts shouldn't come with an "obligated to keep" tag. One should be able to do whatever one wants with it. That would include giving it away.

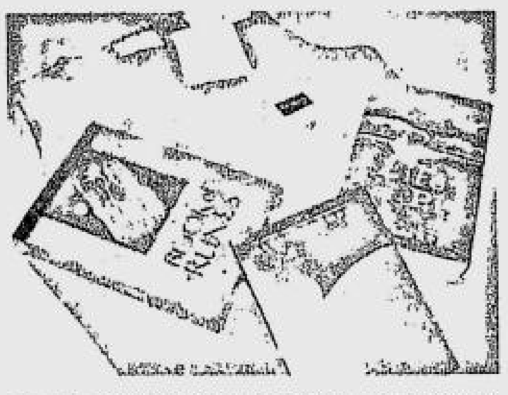
Still feeling guilty?

I say keep the love and toss the symbol. It's the thought that counts anyway and that's enough. If you want to remember the item but do not wish to keep it (it eats up too much space/ doesn't go with anything) take a photo of it and just keep that instead.

If you have a lot, gather everything and take one shot. Write on the back of the photo which items were given by whom.

Still stuck?

Still have a room full of gifts to recycle? You don't have to wait for a special occasion to give gifts. Don't wait anymore for a special occasion. Just give them away. Gifts given with no specific purpose are the most fun to



get. Be careful when re-gifting, you want to avoid giving the same item back to the giver.

Gifts that are too 'precious' to use

A lot of people refuse to use gifts they like. They save it for "someday." I think we should use and enjoy our beautiful things now rather than just stash it. Why use the old ugly plates when you have a box of nicer ones? It's like saying we don't deserve them. We work hard, we're good people and we deserve to use good things on ourselves. If it breaks, at least we've utilized it and enjoyed it rather than having it forgotten about.

Don't be a gift slave. Either use it or lose it. It won't be missed. Stop burdening yourself with unwanted gifts that add clutter in your life. If it is truly meaningful to you then by all means keep it. Keep only things that make you smile when you see them. But other than that, be ruthless. It's just stuff anyway.

If you decide to try out a gift and then realized after a while that it doesn't work for you, pass it on ASAP! Don't let it linger in your space. Be gift clutter-free.

What can you do with overhead space in your closet?

It depends on the size but the best things to put in high places are items you rarely use. Be careful not to store heavy items up there, that's a health hazard. You may store extra beddings, out-of-season clothes or even gowns.

How and where do you store gowns?

Store gowns in canvas garment bags. Storing them in dry cleaner plastic bags is a no-no. You can also keep them in their original box (if space permits) especially when it has a lot of embellishments. A box can keep embellishments from being crushed. Once a year, air out gowns to keep them in their best condition.

How and where to store expensive leather shoes?

Keep them in their boxes. Make sure shoes are clean before you store them. Leather needs to breath so don't put them in airtight plastic containers.

Having an organizing dilemma or want to share an excellent organizing tip? Post at www.rippleeffectorganizing.com and get your answer or tip included in future articles.

12/25/0.

> Even gifts may clutter your life. If you don't need them, give them away

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Ideas that can limit gift clutter this coming holiday season

- Gift checks at service places: a makeover at a salon like Bench Fix or a day at the spa like Suriya
- GCs on consumable items—a favorite coffee shop like Starbucks or Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf or the grocery
- GCs at department stores, even optical shops like Sarabia Optical (a lot of establishments offer or can offer gift certificates, you just need to ask or make requests)
- GCs at Belo Medical Group or Mercury Drugstores
- A donation to a charity organization under someone else's name
- A donation to a museum or Bantay Kalikasan where you can adopt a tree and have it under your name. (Consider recipient's interests when doing this. If the person is not a nature lover, receiving a card that says a tree was named after him might not be exciting.)
- Movie, theater or concert tickets
- Gas cards, prepaid cards, Internet cards
- Enroll someone in a class they'll be interested in.
- Kids can make their own self-made gift coupon or certificates of service.
- Send or request a Wish List (this ensures you or recipient gets what you or they want. Give options, list different priced items from low to high.)
- Announce that you do not wish to receive any gifts but prefer to receive the gift of time or service or even a heartfelt letter of appreciation.

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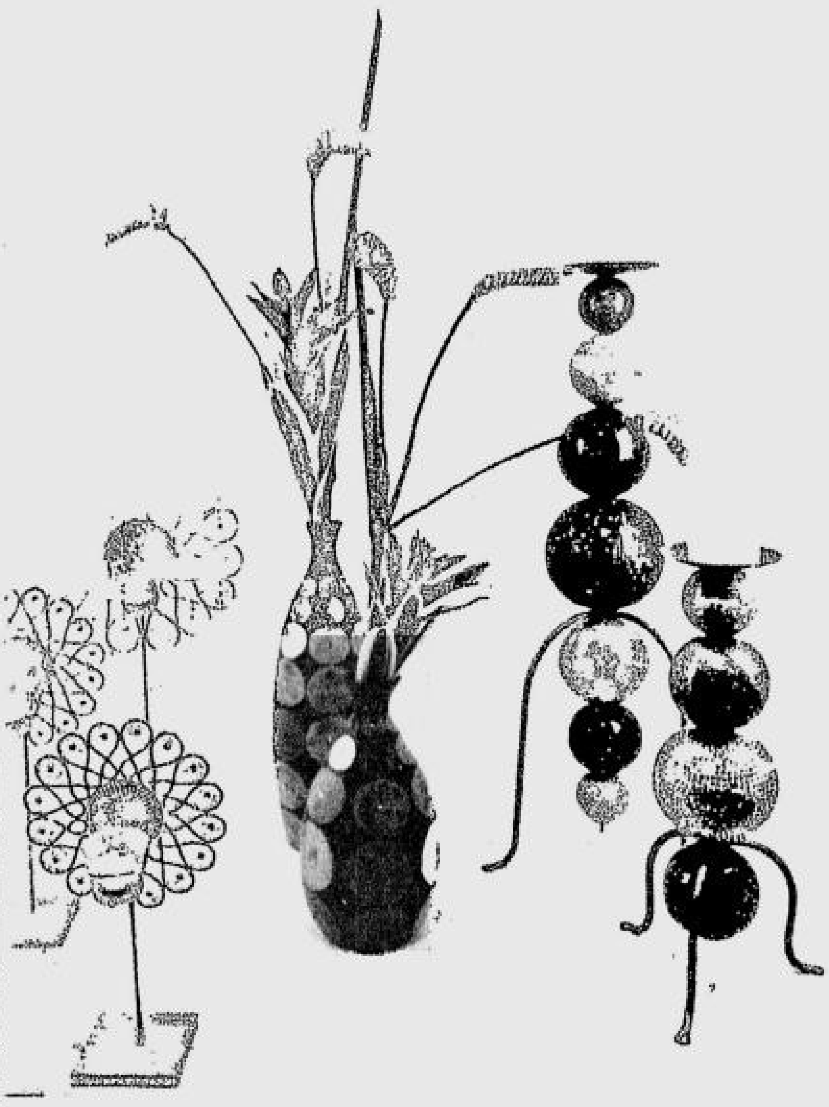
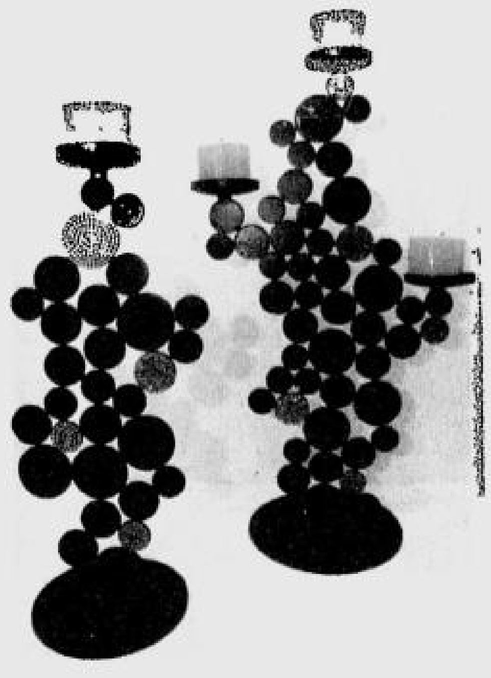
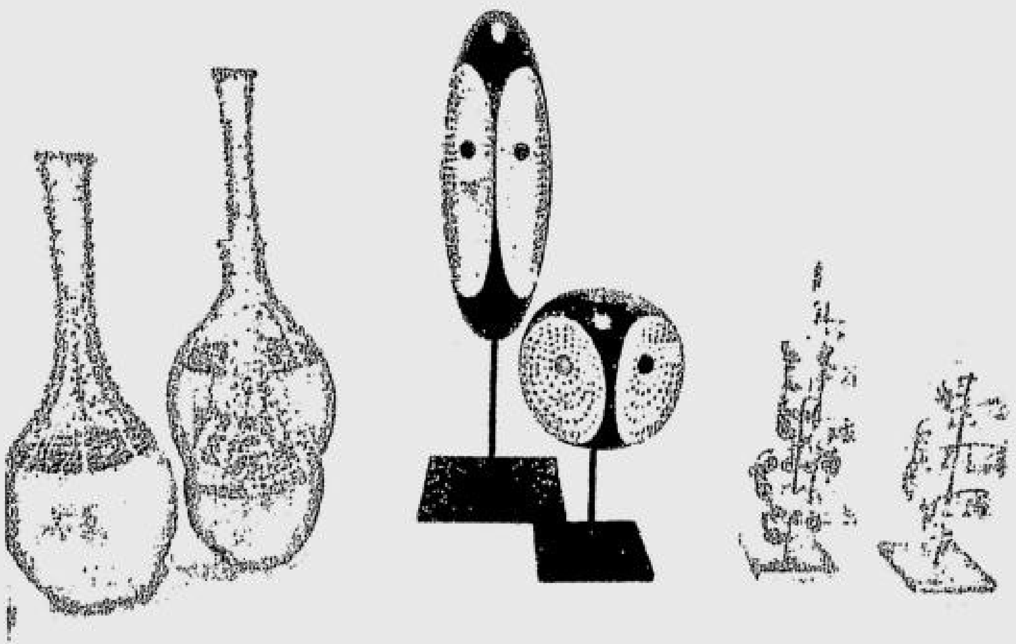


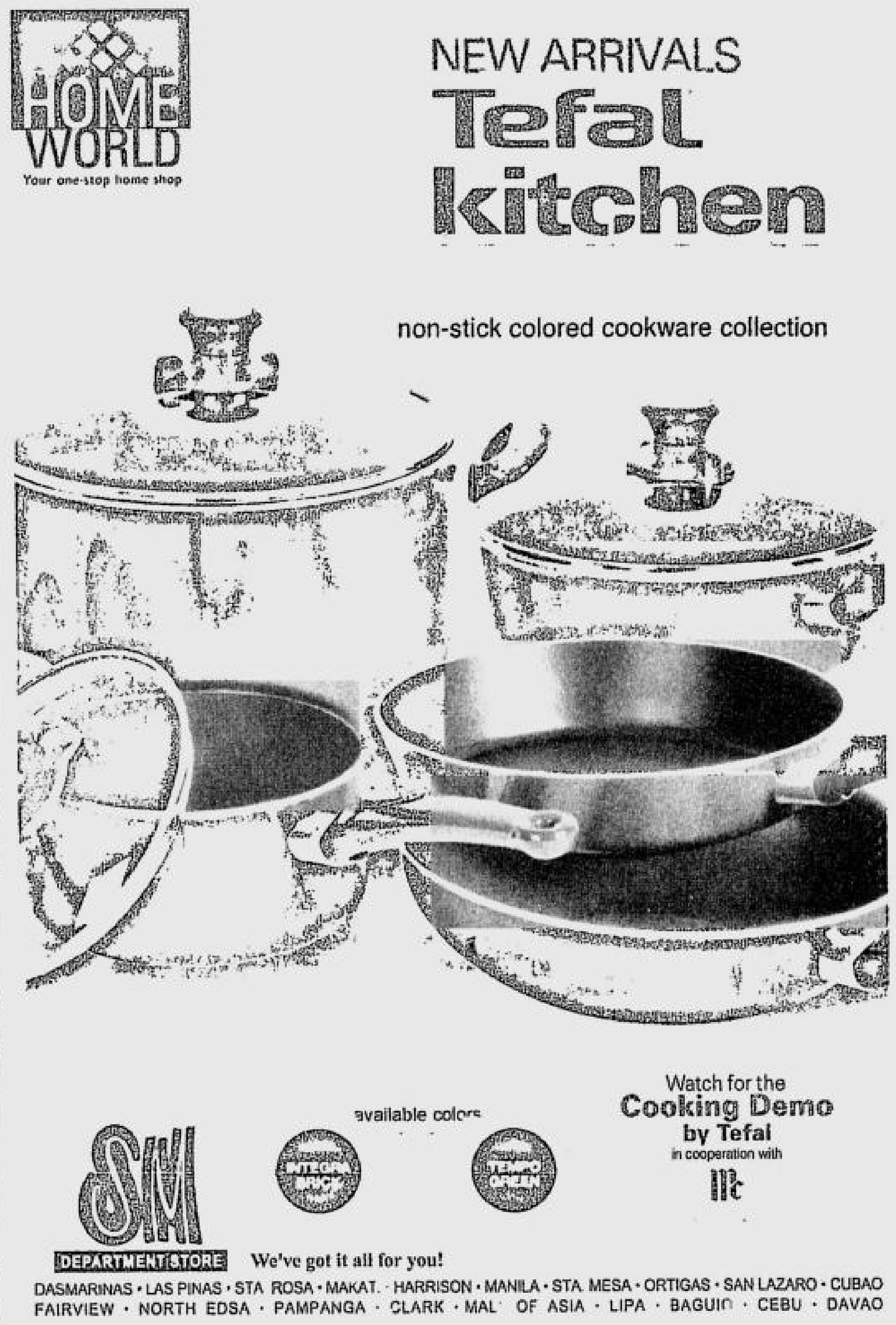
ROSE Window luminaires, Polka Dot vases and Bola Bola candle holders



FIZZ candle holders



FUZZY wire vessels, Owl décor, Trevi luminaires



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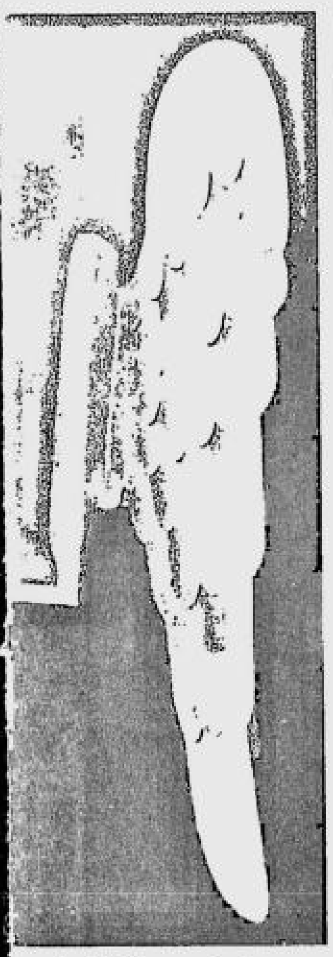
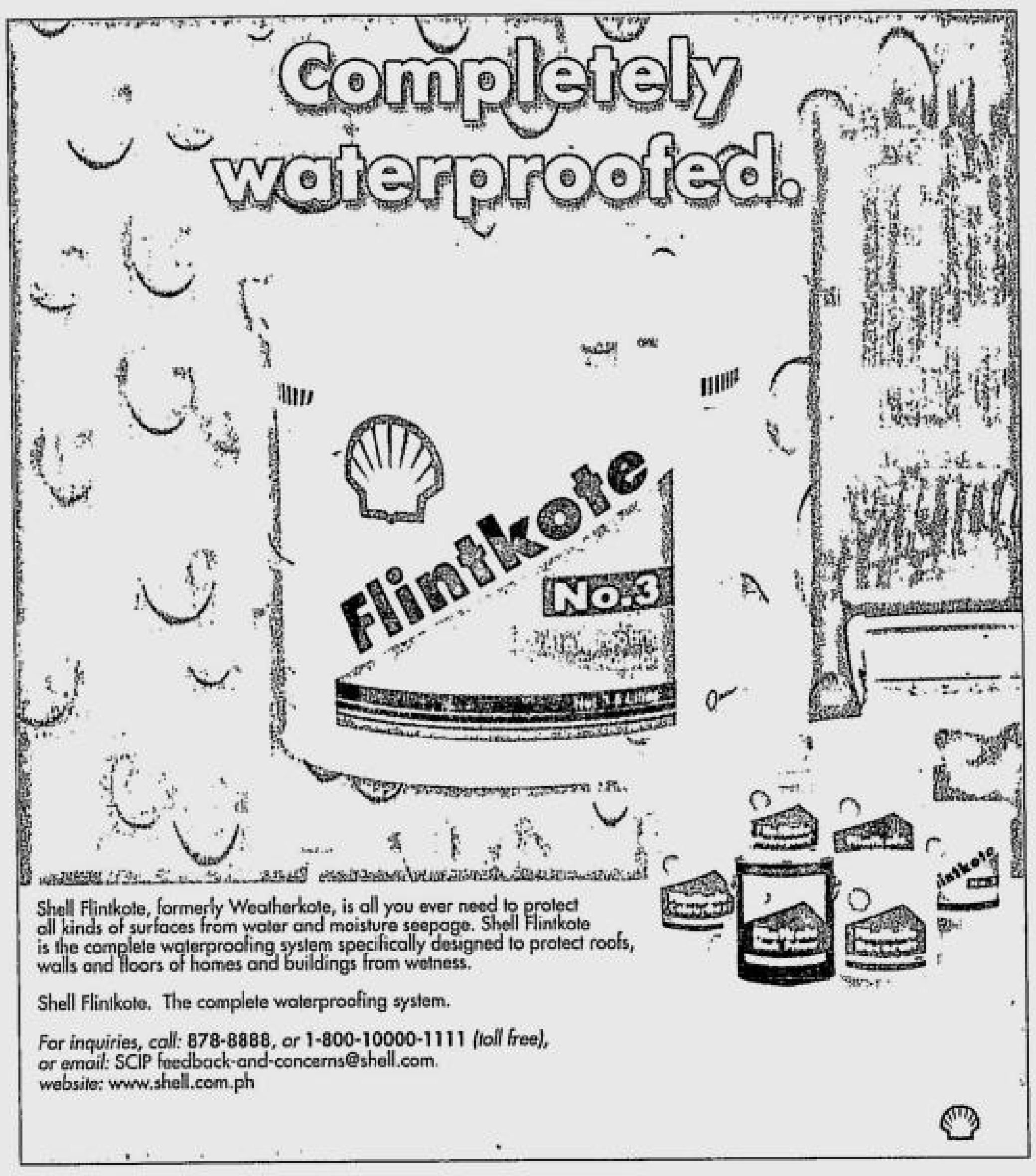


nay look light as a feather
a 200-pound person.



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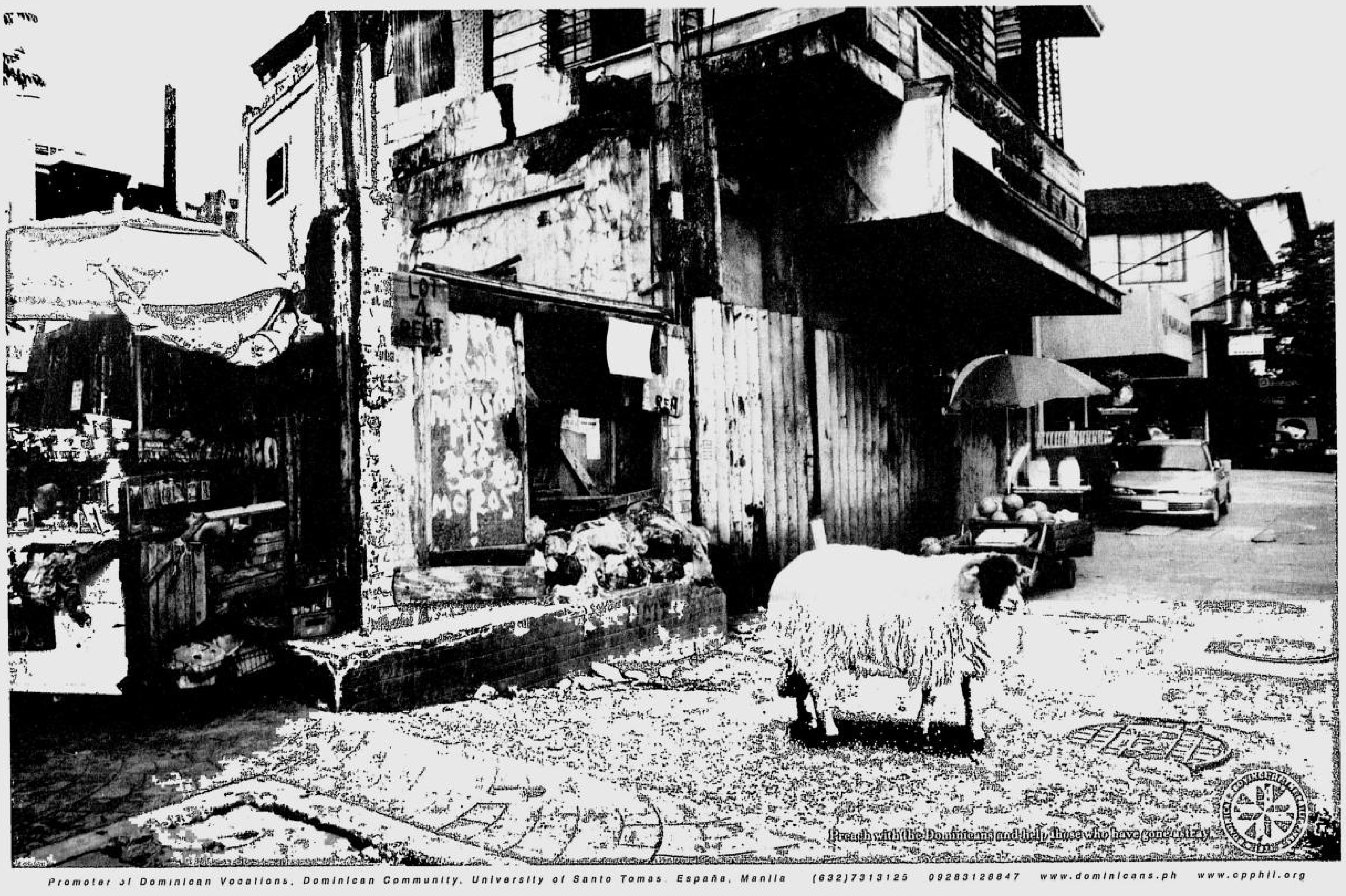

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TODDLERS learn paddling techniques.

Series helps urbanites attain rounded lifestyles

COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS has launched the Urban Lifestyle Series, a chain of classes encouraging people to take time off work and enjoy the lifestyles they deserve.

The launch featured activities that complemented the lifestyles of Community Innovations' target markets for developments: The Columns Legazpi Village, Two Serendra, Celadon Residences and Verdana Homes Mamplasan.

Community Innovations, an Ayala Land company, is the first real estate developer to focus on urban achievers, career-minded individuals with discerning tastes.

Coach Patrick Anthony Remyr Angeles of the Bert Lozada Swimming School conducted Verdana Homes Mamplasan's swimming lessons for kids. The gateway between Tagaytay or Batangas and business districts in Metro Manila, Verdana lets people be near both work and leisure.

California wine importer Cathy Yao-Santos gave wine-tasting tips for residents of The Columns Legazpi Village, located at the corner of Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) and Amorsolo Street. The place is accessible to over 240 office buildings and recreational venues in Makati City.

The Celadon Residences in San Lazaro, designed for the Filipino-Chinese urban achievers, was represented through Chinese calligraphy lessons by Marilyn Lee.

GRADUATES. Community Innovations recognizes the first Urban Lifestyle Series graduates.

Celadon lets people attend to business and families simultaneously.

Lanelle Abueva conducted pottery lessons that may be done in Two Serendra. The "green" community has the country's first-ever underground commercial development with infrastructures, communication lines, gyms, courts and walkways situated below.

Later, certificates were handed out to the "urban lifestyle graduates."

More activities are planned including Entertaining for Two, Wall Climbing, Chinese Cooking and Kite Flying.

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Mekeni Food Corporation Taos- Pusong Pasasalamat!

October 26, 2006
EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

'Magnanimity in victory!' This was the tome of Mekeni Food Corporation's well-attended gig held on October 26, 2006 at EDSA Shangri-La. It was a sight to behold as the company officers and staff members took turns to bond with the stakeholders.

"This is a thanksgiving event," emphasized the beaming Pruds Garcia, MFC president. "We express our gratitude to all those who have generously assisted us in this exciting journey of service!"

The victory party was held in view of the twin awards the company received recently: the unprecedented Best Meat Processing Plant Award received from the Department of Agriculture - National Meat Inspection Service, 3 years in a row - 2004, 2005 and 2006; and the 22000: 2005 citation from ISO for Food Safety Management System - the First in the Philippines, first in Asia.

The 3-hour event was hosted by top TV personality TJ Manotoc and live event celebrity Dennis Baang. Side A provided the musical entertainment while dance champs UP Street Dancers alternated with tyke performers Mekeni Picnic Barkada to keep on their toes!

"We have received countless blessings from God," said the soft- spoken patriarch Felix Garcia. "The celebration is a but a modest reciprocation of his infinite goodness! It is only fitting that we offer everything to him!"

ADVT.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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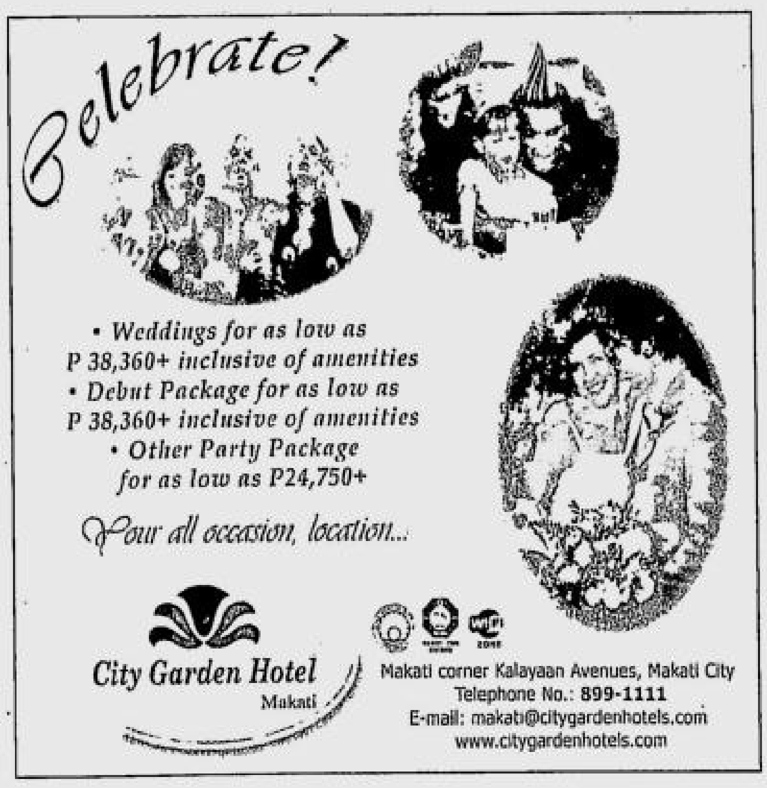

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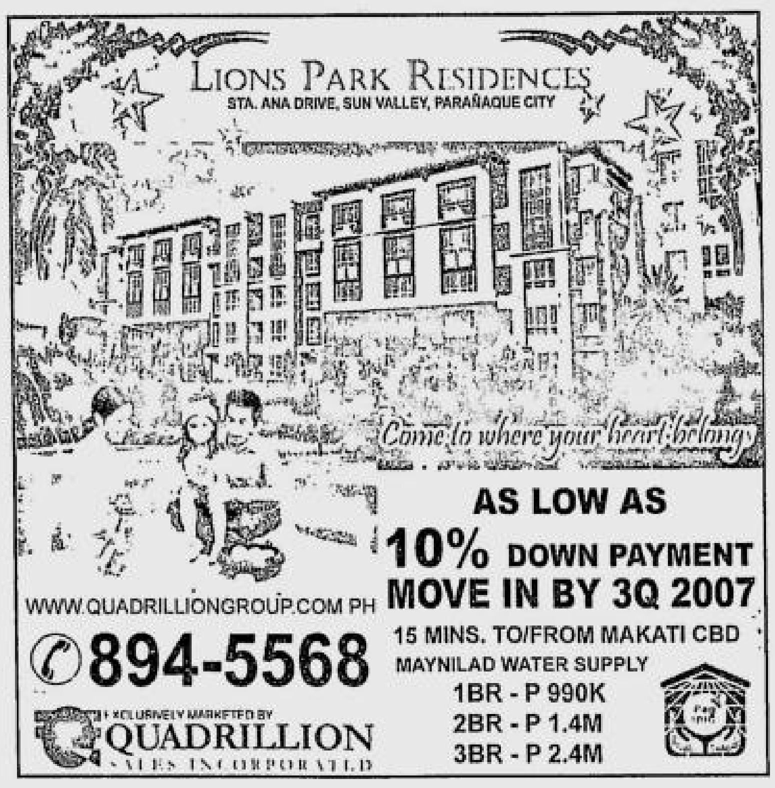

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Clean-up time

Cleaning professionals get the job done in high residences

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Chito Vecina

IN SKY-HIGH RESIDENCES, BEyond the steel elevators, empty hallways and marked doors is a nifty nook where privacy is measured by the square inch. Here stay the condo chambermaids, professional cleaners trained by experts the quick and efficient job of five-star hotel housekeeping.

Polite and courteous, the cheery bunch greets clients with a ready smile. To address foreign clients appropriately, they even know a few foreign-language words.

"We offer professional services of house cleaners who equal the skills, style and etiquette of five-star hotel chambermaids," said Ahyi & Co. Inc. president Carolyn Tan-Santos, herself named the 2005 Model Homeowner of the Year by the Clean and Green Project of Avida Land Corp.

Ahyi & Co. Inc. (tel. 8132903, 8163922, 0922-8889180, 0917-8107388) is a service company of professional housekeepers that provides house-cleaning needs of high-end condo residents in Makati, Ortigas and the suburbs.

Ahyi, said its managing director Carmelo Valera, is an oriental word similar to *yaya* or an elderly everyone in the household looks up to. Tan-Santos said that in China, *ahyi* is how expats refer to their domestic help.

Only in its sixth month of operation, Ahyi & Co. Inc. services condominiums such as One Roxas Boulevard, Rizal at Rockwell, One Legaspi Park, Manansala at Rockwell, Greenbelt Radissons, Hidalgo at Rockwell, The Columns at Ayala (which already has a few occupants), Pacific Plaza at The Fort, Prince Plaza II, Oriental Gardens, Cityland, and many more. They have also extended their services to homes in Dasmariñas Village, Makati and Ayala Alabang Village. Recently, the company has been accredited by Ayala Properties Management Corp. to service its home properties.

Downside of 'high living'

Living in limited condominium space for over a decade now, Tan-Santos is only too familiar with the downside of living high up off the ground. A demanding lifestyle makes residents too weary to look after their homes themselves. Getting a trusted househelp and losing personal space is just one of the problems; hiring a pro on a weekly basis is another.

This year, along with some partners, Tan-Santos decided to professionalize the house-cleaning industry by setting up a company that aims to bring back dignity to a livelihood looked down upon by society. To do this, applicants that met the company board's requirements underwent weeks of rigid training, on and off the job—from cleaning homes the professional way to how they must conduct themselves when in the presence of a client.

CLEAN-UP/ F2

AHYI professionalizes the local housekeeping industry by providing hotel-grade services.

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manamis-namis, malaman, sa halagang abot-kaya.

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Ganyan magmahal pag Nanay ka.

Clean-up time

From page F1

"We put them through attitudinal programs. The chambermaids came into our company like blocks of ice; then we melt them with values, then we freeze them again so the values stay with them," Valera said.

A lawyer who took up courses in Applied Behavioral Science in the United States, Valera himself put the 12 chambermaids through weeks of behavioral seminars. The people behind Ahyi believe a shifting of attitude is just as important as learning the skills of housekeeping. After all, the main concern of their clientele is honesty.

Ahyi & Co. Inc. recognizes the lure of temptation its housekeeping team could face upon entering an exclusive address such as One Roxas Boulevard. To eliminate risks, the housekeeping team always come in pairs, with one looking out after the other.

Valera said the strategy is also to protect the interest of the company. Since most of its employees are young and pleasant-looking, the risk of clients becoming too fresh with the girls is also avoided.

Personal hygiene

The uniformed chambermaids were also given a course on personal hygiene. Since they work on an average of four condo units per day, most of the time walking from one building to the other, Tan-Santos said it is important they look and smell amiable at all times.

Since it is not unusual to find a cat or two or a dog in many residences, the chambermaids have also been trained on how to deal with pets. And they do treat house pets the way they do its owners.

A former operations manager of The Clean Co. trained its employees the professional skills of housekeeping. It was difficult at first, with some teams finishing a job for several hours. Today, a team could easily finish its work at an hour for Basic Cleaning, and two hours for General Cleaning.

The company also accepts carpet shampooing, upholstery cleaning, floor waxing and polishing, curtain and bed linen laundry/dry clean, laundry, appliance repair, marble crystallization, and hard floor cleaning for an extra fee.

Rates are affordable at P15/square meter. Since many studio units average a mere 20-sq m floor area, a minimum of P350 is required for Basic Cleaning. Minimum for General Cleaning is P700. Upon completion of job, clients are made to sign a feedback sheet. If clients are not around, a feedback sheet will be left in the room.

The chambermaids have the benefits of regular office workers, from sick leaves to vacation leaves to getting them their Social Security numbers. Each is insured, equipped with cell phones and *kikay* kits. It is one of the company's goals that their girls make a career out of their work.

"Our housekeepers are carefully selected, meticulously trained, security- and health-cleared with appropriate government agencies," Tan-Santos said.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

(TOP) THE OCCUPANT and her pet dog look on as the chambermaids do their work. (Above) Feedback sheet is filled out by a client before the chambermaids leave her home.

THE BATHROOM, the first part of the home that gets a good scrub, is meticulously tidied up.

6 house-tidying tips

A SPOTLESS HOME CAN BE ACHIEVED BY FOLLOWING A systematic way of cleaning your space. Ahyi & Co. Inc. gives a few practical tips on how to make your house-cleaning chores easier without missing a corner.

1 Always start from top to bottom. Accumulated dust and dirt on walls and ceilings do obey the law of gravity. When their comfortable crannies are disturbed, they are bound to fall on the floor. To save time from cleaning up twice on the same spot, do the ceiling first, followed by the walls.

2 Move from left to right, or right to left, whichever is your preference. By putting an order to your movements, you are sure to never miss an area in your home. This step is followed by a counterclockwise or clockwise rotation for that final brush.

3 Clean the bathroom, kitchen, bedroom, living room preferably in this order.

4 Bathrooms are one of the busiest rooms in a house. By scrubbing them clean first, discomfort that could arise from a long wait can be avoided. Clean the shower area first, followed by the medicine cabinet, mirror, bathroom sink and toilet bowl. Before starting, however, do put the disinfectant into the bowl to give time for the chemicals to do their magic.

5 For the rest of the areas in the house, the rule of thumb applies: top to bottom, left to right and counterclockwise. For instance, cupboards in the kitchen must be wiped clean first before doing the sink. Or, the mirror in the living room must come first before the console table underneath it.

The floor must be the last task on the list. When dust and dirt has settled on the floor, then you're ready to clean it. Mop, wax and polish the floor before making the one final sweep.

If you're a newbie in the housekeeping department, it might take you half a day—even more—on your first few attempts. Don't lose heart. You'll get the hang of it someday, or admit exhaustion and get a pro to do it for you.

Anne A. Jambora

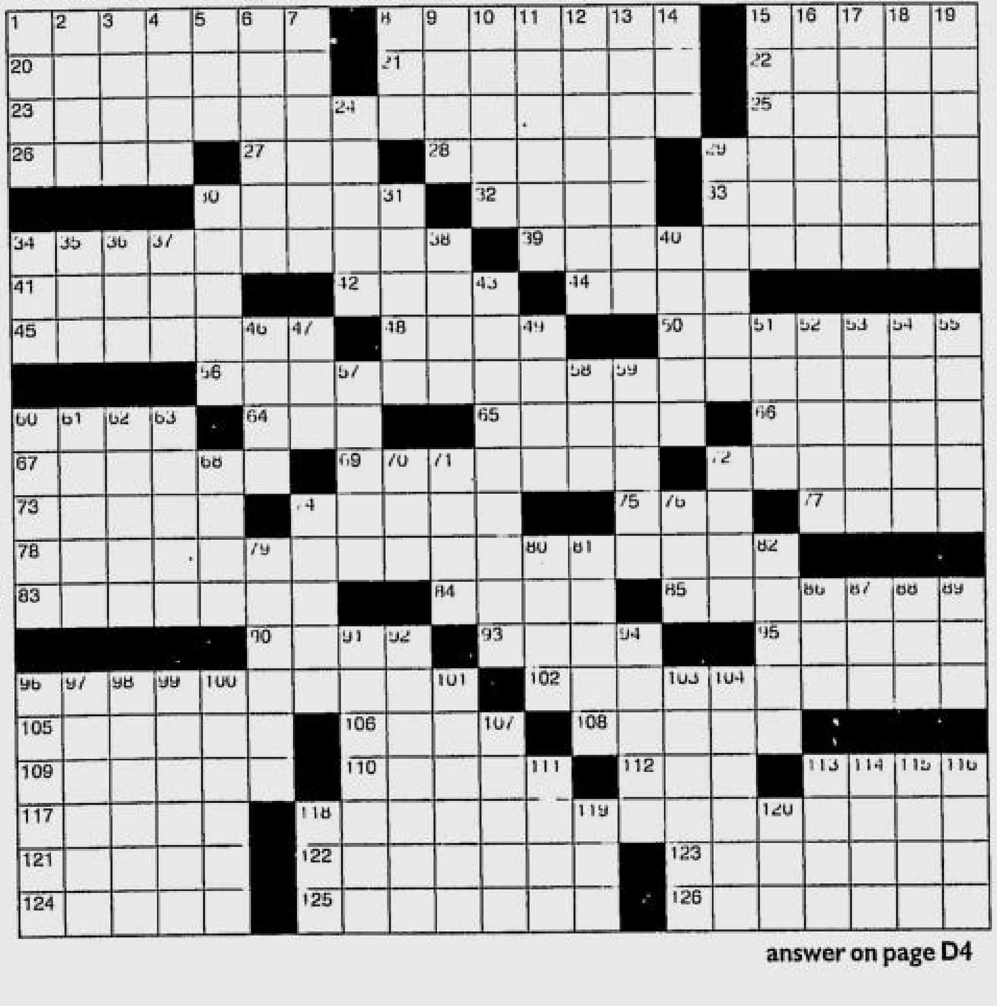
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

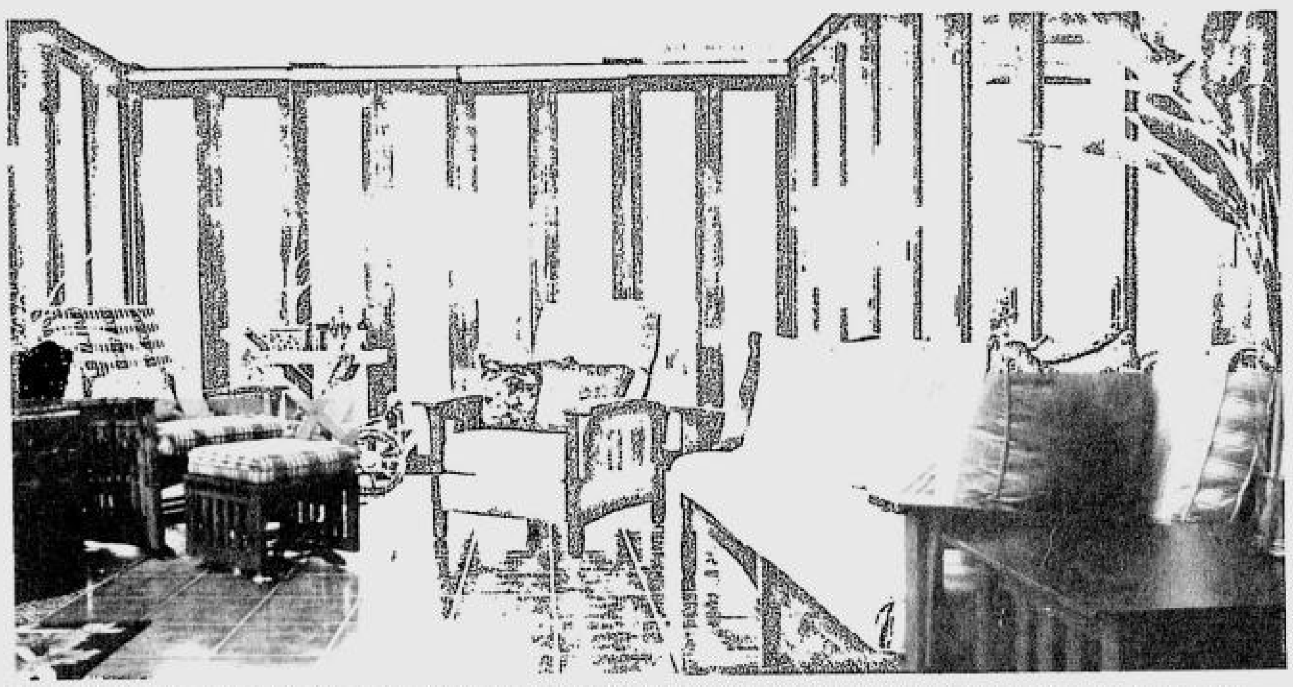
SWAP

ACROSS
1 Women's soccer star
8 Competent
15 President of Syria
20 Actor Banderas
21 "Tokyo," to "Kyoto"
22 Parking spot
23 Ill-conceived dog biscuits?
25 Rice dish
26 Lakers star Bryant
27 — and tonic
28 Spill over
29 Lure
30 Davis of "Thelma & Louise"
32 Alternatively
33 With 71-Down, vinegar, essentially
34 Amsterdam illusionist's offering?
39 Dust-covered bonbon?
41 Formula of belief
42 Ivory or Dial
44 Those, to Jose
45 School sessions
48 Eaves' site
50 Ineffectual
56 Bamboozles as a king would?
60 Judo move
64 Lyricist Gershwin
65 Thoughts
66 Bottled water brand
67 Get dressed
69 Catholic clerics
72 Very fast, in music
73 Hellenic hangout
74 Armistice
75 Slice of time
77 Lentil, e.g.
78 Ineffective method for fooling a woman?
83 Spoon, say
84 Painter Salvador
85 China's Mao —
90 After-bath powder
93 Ill-mannered
95 Big name in cell phones
96 Piece of penny candy?
102 Bill picked up by cager Johnson?
105 Video store transaction
106 Unruly kid
108 Sleeping pill brand
109 Novelist - Leonard
110 Stage name
112 Former org. of Jim Bakker
113 Top-drawer
117 With 71-Down, protein building block
118 Duped into attending a potluck?
121 Tin, for one
122 Tax shelter option
123 Threatening one
124 Vogue
125 Applies holy oil to
126 Pencil tips

DOWN
1 Halloween wear
2 Involved with
3 "... three men in —"
4 Expectation
5 Singer DiFranco
6 Pint-size
7 More glum
8 Alley roamer
9 Aardvark's dinner
10 "Ici on — francais"
11 From long, long ago
12 Golf club also called a number two wood
13 Foams up
14 Some printing dashes
15 Phase
16 Web host?
17 Great
18 Locust tree, e.g.
19 Flaw
24 Bandleader Skinnay —
29 Puts forth as fact
30 Simple Halloween costume
31 "Put — in it!" ("Shut up!")
34 Cato's 700
35 Address on the WWW
36 Brewed beverage
37 PC inserts
38 Enemy agency on "Get Smart"
40 Excursions
43 Cop's wheels
46 Keystone State port
47 Galahad's title
49 Spot's friend
51 One gazing
52 Washes
53 Beethoven's "Fur "
54 Declare
55 Church council
57 West Pointer, e.g
58 Actor Berry
59 Art stand
60 "Speed" star Reeves
61 Bar of gold
62 Actor Russell
63 Islamic Bible
68 Inlets
70 ENT part
71 Caustic compound
72 Hip homes
74 Kind of bear
76 Slum sight
79 Dot on an "i"
80 Supermodel Heidi
81 Actor Quinn
82 Barbra Streisand musical film
86 High crag
87 Guitar kin, for short
88 Actress Peeples
89 Slangy gun
91 Former Chrysler
92 1993 title role for Al Pacino
94 Nile's land
96 Doughnut fillers
97 Biker's wear
98 Ill will
99 Without a key center
100 Conditional release
101 Chinese meditative exercises
103 "Sock —!" ("Laugh-In" line)
104 More frigid
107 "— Care of Business" (1974 hit)
111 Spanish muralist
113 Santa — (hot winds)
114 Previously
115 — -do-well (loafer)
116 Shows fallibility
118 — la la
119 Some govt. lawyers
120 — funk (sad)



answer on page D4



THE COUPLE has filled their home with things that delight the heart, including this comfy sofa set in the sun room where the couple likes to relax after a tiring day.

Heirloom furniture that remain contemporary

WHILE TIME IS THE BEST judge of whether a particular furniture piece is durable enough to become a family heirloom someday, some individuals have a knack for choosing pieces that can potentially last for generations.

Business couple Angie and Manuel Ilagan, for instance, has a house full of hardwood pieces that they know their children's children will enjoy. The items are by renowned American furniture maker Ethan Allen.

"They're pretty expensive but definitely worth it," said Angie. "Most of them are eight years old, like our Medallion beds, yet they never look outdated. They're in excellent condition as when they were first delivered to the house and they feel as comfortable as ever."

The Ilagans have transformed their Alabang Hills home into a lovely family retreat, which is a veritable showroom of Ethan Allen.

"From the very beginning, since we moved to this house eight years ago, we've always wanted Ethan Allen. The brand imparts not just the foreign ambience that we were looking for, but most importantly, quality," Manuel said.

"We love the uncomplicated design. It's very easy on the eyes and classy. It's finely crafted, too, and made of hardwood so it's very sturdy," said Angie.

The couple was also happy to note that in-house design consultants were pleased to help them pick just the right pieces for their home.

Through its complimentary design service, Ethan Allen's team of professional designers can help clients in solving design dilemmas in creating custom furnishings and in defining the decorating budget.

The couple are also loyal to Ethan Allen because they are assured of a continuous service long after the items have been delivered.

The pieces are invitingly placed in strategic areas of the house. A curio cabinet prominently stands at the right corner of the living room and houses the family's crystal collection.

A maple accent table positioned in front of the main door accents the wooden figurine of a man and woman locked in a passionate embrace.

The dining room boasts of a sturdy dining set made of cherry wood. The table is expandable and can seat up to 10 people.

To Angie, however, the master's bedroom is her favorite part of the house and the cherry wood bed her most prized furniture piece.

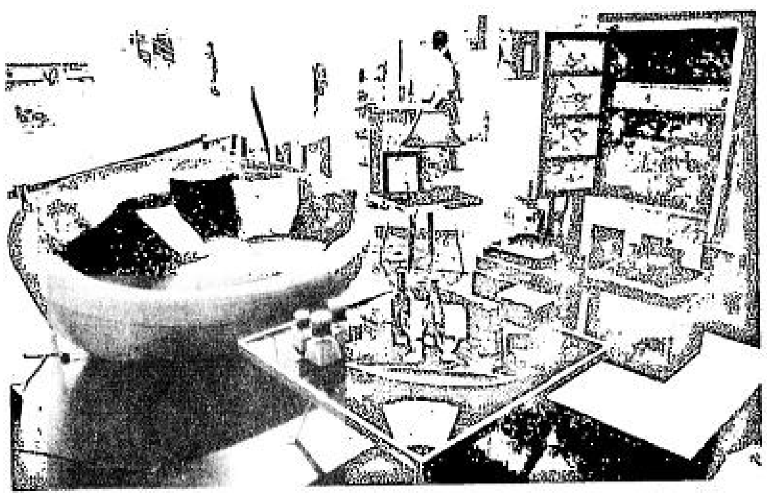
"As soon as I enter the room and see the bed, I immediately get into rest mode," she said. "It feels so inviting and comfortable it reminds me of lying on a bed at a five-star hotel in the US."

ANGIE and Manuel Ilagan

The Ethan Allen design center is at the corner of Pioneer and Reliance Streets, Mandaluyong City. Call 6348587 or e-mail corporate@focus-global.com. Log on to www.focusglobalinc.com.

Homey vignettes of self

Eight interior designers present their take on personal home décor



LARGER THAN LIFE. The red lounge takes the centerstage in this den designed for the modern, vibrant woman.

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Chito Vecina

TEXTURES, colors, fabrics, patterns, scale, lighting. Play and experiment. Let your home become your canvas, a vignette about your unique personality. Indulge. It's your space, anyway.

Home and office furnishing and accessories retailer Blims has teamed up with eight designers from the Philippine School of Interior Design and Philippine Institute of Interior Designers for "Your Space Exactly," an exhibit of modern and contemporary pieces with a touch of tropical, that runs until Oct. 30 at the Ayala Node, Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati.

Chelle Laborte's Modern Asia is a fusion of modern, oriental, Filipino and tropical ambience. Ebony, ivory, coffee, charcoal, cream and mocha take the centerstage of the living area. Throw pillows soften the white-stitched leather sofa.

High Rise Living by Jessica Tsoi reveals how small space can be made exciting. Tsoi said the red motif makes a statement about a strong, independent personality. The right furniture and accessories, some consideration for scale and proportion, and Oriental pieces add warmth to the living area.

In Cecilia Ravela's Bon Appetit, kitchen essentials stimulate appetite and good conversation. The color scheme is warm and cozy, and while the backdrop is modern, traditional concepts and accessories create the right atmosphere for dining.

Male pad

Masculine and urban need not be stiff in Nicky Jardenil's Entertaining Man. Designed for comfort and function, with function almost always on top of every man's list, aesthetic elements soften the leather, glass and steel vignette.

Larger Than Life is Carol Chua's vision of the vibrant, modern woman. A red lounge dominates the den as Asian pieces enhance the feminine dweller. The black-and-white throw pillows soften the glow for moments of solitude and relaxation.

Bedrooms should always be a space that encourages sleep. In Tantan Pambid's Retro Nights, subtle hues are utilized to create a mood for luxurious repose and leisure hours. The ensemble is a blend of contemporary style and retro modern as Asian touches such as terra-cotta warriors and box-type vases provide character to the room.

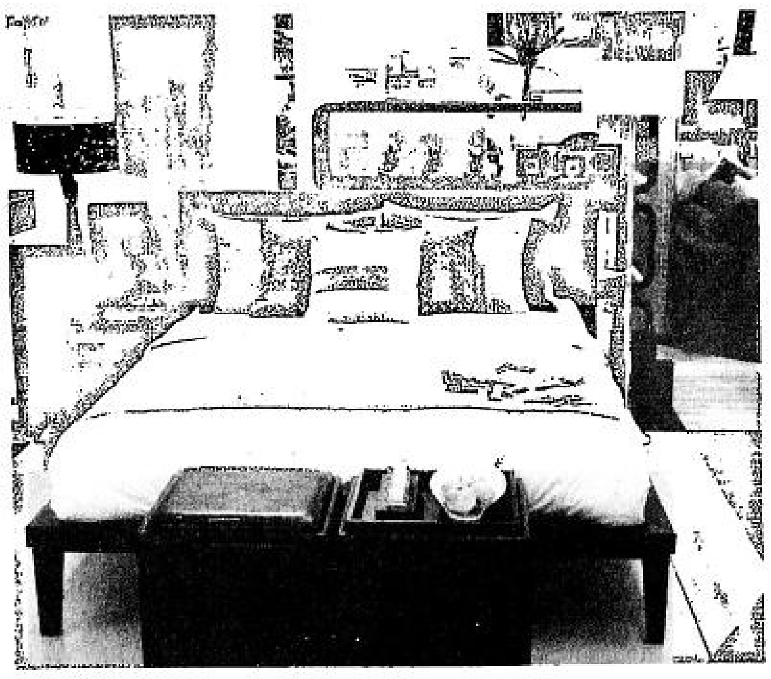
In Sophisticated Slumber, neutrals are exploited in the master's suit. Subdued and sublime, Mina Rivera's design carefully chooses pieces for their soothing effect, magnified by soft and luxurious fabrics and muted lighting.

Home office means serious business. Black, gray and silver colors with audacious accents of red make the Corporate Suite by Jie Pambid. Straight lines, cutting-edge furniture and the use of glass and steel encourage the analytical mind to think. The avant-garde space amplifies a symbol of power and confidence.

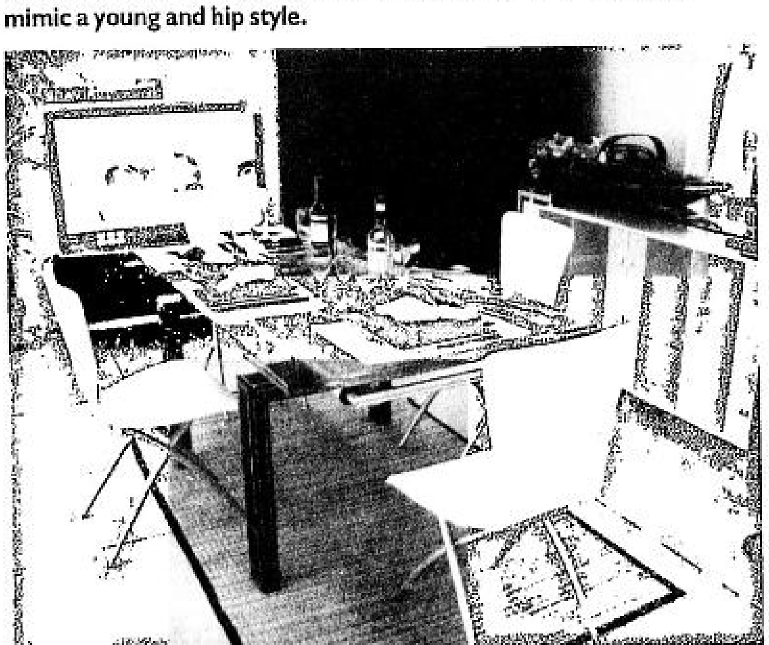
"Blims offers a variety of home furniture and accessories to cater to the wide range of demands from our clients," said Kenneth Navarro, marketing supervisor of Blims Fine Furniture.

Electrifying colors make up many pieces of the showrooms, but that's because Filipinos have become more daring in decorating their homes, Navarro said. The modern tropical theme for this year reflects the urban lifestyle without losing the Asian identity.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



RETRO NIGHTS. Green is used with 1930s-inspired patterns to mimic a young and hip style.



BON APPETIT. Traditional concepts with contemporary pieces and accessories create an atmosphere conducive to good food and conversation.

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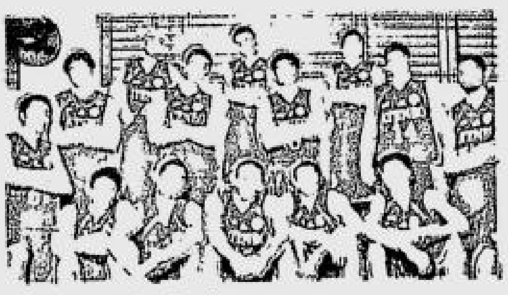
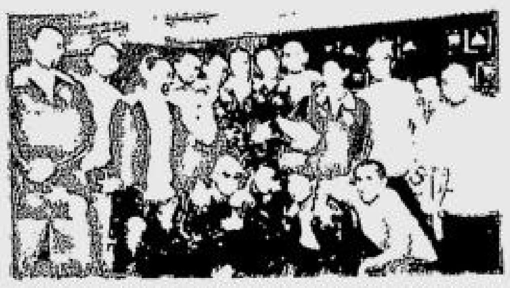
NCCA 2006 champions San Beda Red Lions

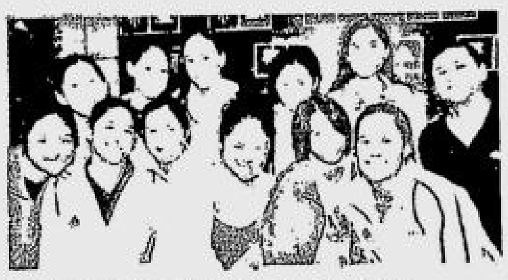

ATENEO Blue Eagles


ADIDAS-SUPPORTED team Letran Knights

Adidas and NBA join forces

ADIDAS, THREE POINTS!

It was like a championship moment for two of the greatest brands in the sport of basketball as the Adidas Group and the National Basketball Association signed an 11-year global merchandising partnership that will make Adidas the official uniform and apparel provider for the NBA, the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and the NBA Development League (D-League) beginning the 2006-2007 NBA season.


ATENEO Blue Eagles Women's Team

The new relationship with Adidas comes as a result of Adidas' acquisition of Reebok International Ltd., the NBA's exclusive uniform and apparel provider since 2001. The deal includes rights to sell apparel and casual and performance footwear in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia.

"As part of the Reebok integration, we as a group made this strategic decision which we believe will significantly help us immediately increase the visibility of Adidas as a sports performance brand in the US," said Adidas Group CEO and chair Herbert Hainer. "In the long term, this new 11-year partnership has the power to make the NBA and Adidas synonymous in basketball."

"This partnership deepens our relationship with a sports league that continues to soar in global popularity," said Erich Stamminger, president and CEO of the Adidas brand. "We are building a foundation on which we can grow the sport of basketball globally."

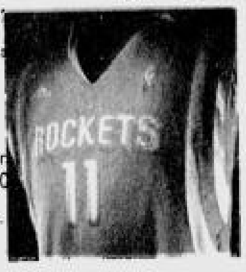
"The Adidas brand is recognized for its excellence in sports heritage and performance on a global basis," said NBA commissioner David Stern. "NBA and Adidas apparel and footwear will be available to even more fans around the world, continuing our effort to expand the league's accessibility to anywhere fans can dribble a ball or watch a basketball game."

Joey Singian, managing director of Adidas

ADIDAS/ G2

PUREFOODS Chunkee Giants: 2006 Fiesta Cupchampions

ADIDAS president Erich Stamminger and NBA commissioner David Stern


ADIDAS jersey for Houston Rockets

ADIDAS basketball stars Wesley Gonzales, Enrico Villanueva, PJ Simon and Larry Fonacier

ADIDAS jersey for Orlando Magic

ADIDAS Streetball finalists (Philippine Team) wins first runner-up in the recent Streetball Challenge in Guangzhou.

ADIDAS jersey for Miami Heat

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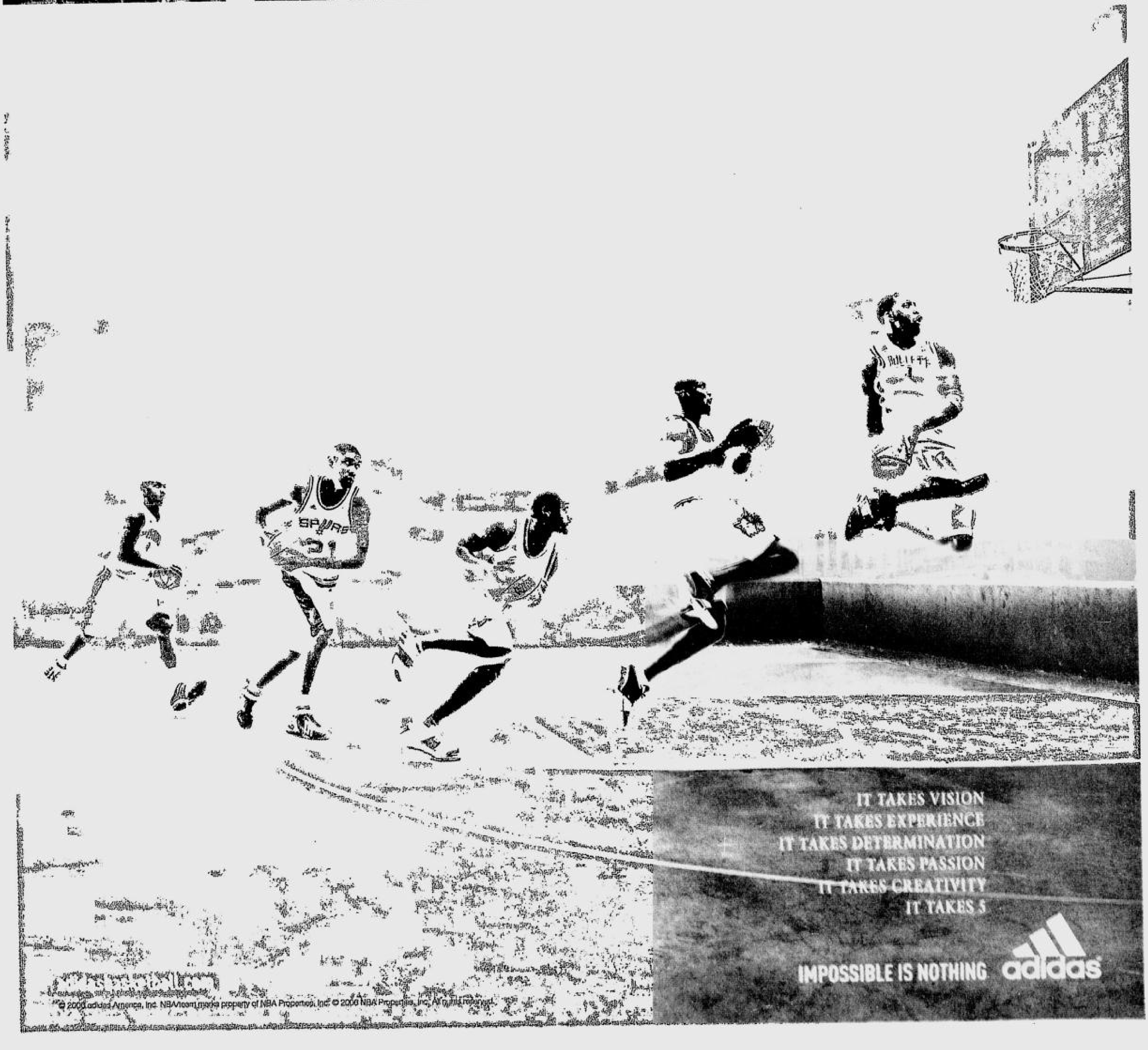

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Adidas teamwork: It takes five!

ADIDAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE launch of a new global basketball movement featuring NBA All-Stars Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady, Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett, San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, and Detroit Pistons' Chauncey Billups.

The movement of the "It Takes 5IVE" campaign is based on the idea of believing in something bigger than the individual—believing in five, believing in team.

This will be showcased in the upcoming Adidas global basketball campaign, "It Takes 5IVE." The campaign will feature situations highlighting the players as individuals, but in the end the players tell the viewers they have been fooled if they believe it is any one individual when "It Takes 5IVE" guys working together to do great things.

"We wanted to tap into the idea that there is more to the game then just individual achievement, and focus on the value of being part of a team. That is the true spirit of the game of basketball," said Eric Liedtke, VP of Global Brand Marketing for Adidas.

"Bringing together five of the game's most successful athletes and having them deliver the message that real success can only come from being part of a team, and that any individual achievement cannot measure to the success that five players on the court can achieve together, will show that teamwork is the most essential aspect to a team sport."

The campaign sums up the message of teamwork by conveying a different characteristic that each of these All-Stars brings to the team. The brand print ad features all five athletes blending into each other as they go up for a slam-dunk.

During the campaign, each of the athletes involved will also launch his own signature shoe.

"It is important for people to know that without my teammates, I wouldn't have a signature shoe," said McGrady. "So for me, my signature shoe represents my teammates, not just me."

Adidas has been providing innovative products for the world's best athletes for over 50 years, from NBA legends such as Jerry West, Oscar Robertson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to other ace athletes like Adam Morrison, Dwight Howard, Josh Smith, Sebastian Telfair and TJ Ford.

IT TAKES 5ive, featuring NBA All-Stars Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett, Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady, San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan and Detroit Pistons' Chauncey Billups

BEHIND-THE-SCENES in the making of the It Takes 5ive Adidas campaign

Adidas and NBA join forces

From page G1

Philippines Inc., said, "We are truly excited about this partnership especially since basketball remains the biggest sport in the Philippines. Filipinos are some of the NBA's biggest fans. It just goes to show our support for one of the world's greatest games."

Singian added, "We are amplifying the brand's support for the sport in the Philippines as well. We continue to support the local leagues and have partnered with some of the most stellar performers of the game including the Purefoods Chunkee Giants, San Beda Red Lions, Ateneo Blue Eagles, Ateneo Blue Eaglets, Ateneo Blue Eagles Women's Team, Letran Knights, just to name a few."

The NBA, founded in 1946, is a global sports and entertainment brand that features 30 teams in the United States and Canada, distributed in 215 countries, and aired in 43 languages.

Adidas will be launching its NBA apparel in the Philippines in January 2007, and will be available in Adidas shops and sporting stores. So, basketball fans, watch out!

ATENEO BLUE EAGLETS: IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

adidas-supported team Ateneo Blue Eaglets are flying high with their recent triumph. These young men are indeed showing undeniable promise and potential, making them the team and players to watch.

Following in the wake of other adidas teams like the San Beda Red Lions who clinched the NCAA Championship and the Purefoods Chunkee Giants who won the fiesta Cup this year, the Eaglets proved that "Impossible is Nothing". As the underdog team in the competition, no one predicted they would make it to the finals. The Ateneo Eaglets found themselves in the finals vying for the title of UAAP season 69 juniors basketball champions, and emerged triumphant in a stunning finals that captured the attention of many.

The Ateneo Junior Eaglets illustrated the same passion for teamwork as the Senior Eagles team, in preparing for their games in the UAAP Junior 69 finals. "All of them worked together and didn't count on one particular person to carry them through," says Ateneo Eaglets head coach, Jimike Jarin. "It's a special group who made it all the way."

The Ateneo Eaglets, like the Eagles, underwent tedious year-long preparations centered upon a planned winning strategy. This strategy involved a holistic approach to training young players. "Our training strategy included and will continue to include being their friend off the court so we can develop them not just as players but as individuals," says Coach Jarin

"We were very excited for the Eaglets when we realized they had made it to the finals, and further overjoyed when they clinched the championship. They showed so much promise and potential. They represent the future of the sport. As it is, they are good. Given the proper training, guidance, and experience – we are surely to witness great things from them in the future," says Joey Singian, Managing Director, adidas Philippines.

Co-Captain, Kevin Gamboa attributes their impressive performance to the most fundamental value in any group sport: teamwork: "We stand out and made it as champions because of our unity and camaraderie," he says.

Assistant Coach, Jo Silva says that despite their young age and the pressure to play at a higher level, the Eaglets have exceeded expectations. "It's a young team. Sophomores are the MVPs with no marquee player." says Silva. "

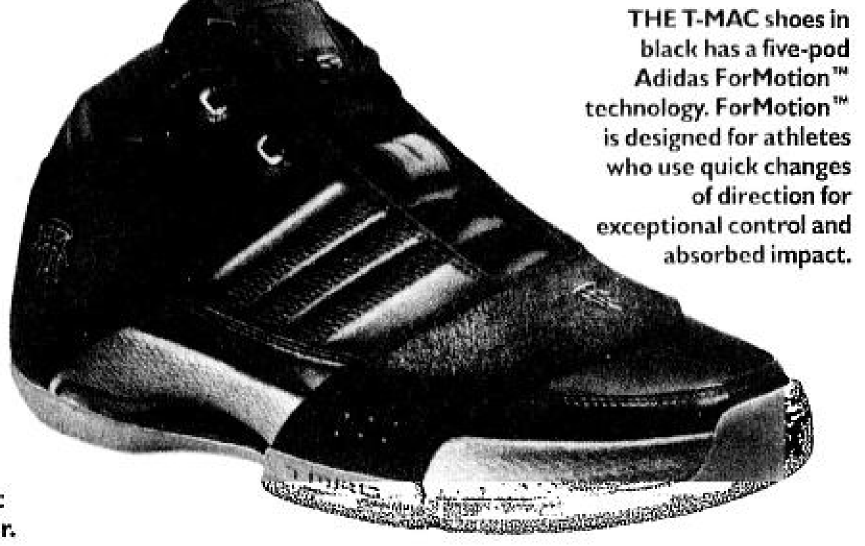
This season's line-up included: Mike Gamboa (Senior Guard), Juami Tiongson (Junior Guard), JV Dumrique (Freshman Guard), EJ Valera (Sophomore Guard), Alec Rivera (Sophomore Guard), Red Katipunan Jr (Guard-Forward), Carlo Balmeceda Jr. (Guard-Forward), Enzo Esquivel (Junior Guard), Kevin Gamboa (Sophomore Forward), Arnelli Aportadera (Junior Foward), Antonino Gonzaga Sr. (Forward- Center), Bacon Austria (Senior Forward), Evan Enriquez (Sophomore Center), Frank Golla (Sophomore Center).

During the Juniors finals, while they lost their first game, the Ateneo Eaglets beat out Far Eastern University, 75-67 during game two. In spite of the height advantage of the FEU team during the earlier part of the game, the team's full-court trapping defense was their winning strategy against FEU and soon they had found themselves in an exciting game three showdown. The team's 69-61 winning sweep over University of the East had catapulted them to the crucial, best-of-three championships.

Co-Captain Kevin Gamboa, Frank Golla, EJ Valera, Bacon Austria (sitting), Arnelli Aportadera Jr, Ivan Enriquez

T-MAC LAUNCHES SIXTH EDITION

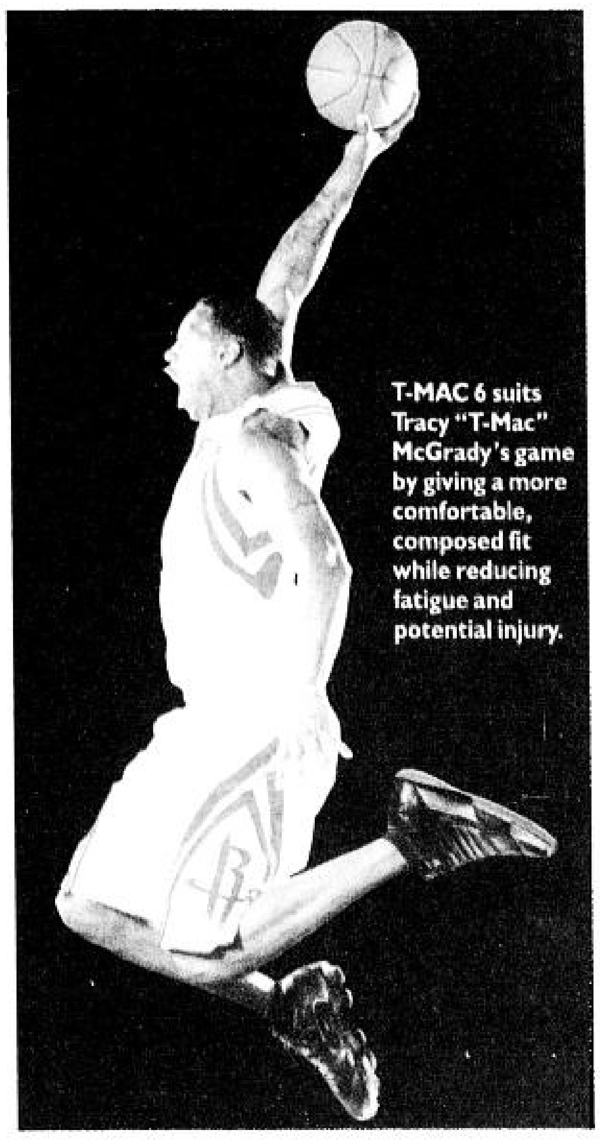
THE T-MAC 6 shoes in white can help position the foot quicker and allow horizontal forces to be applied faster.



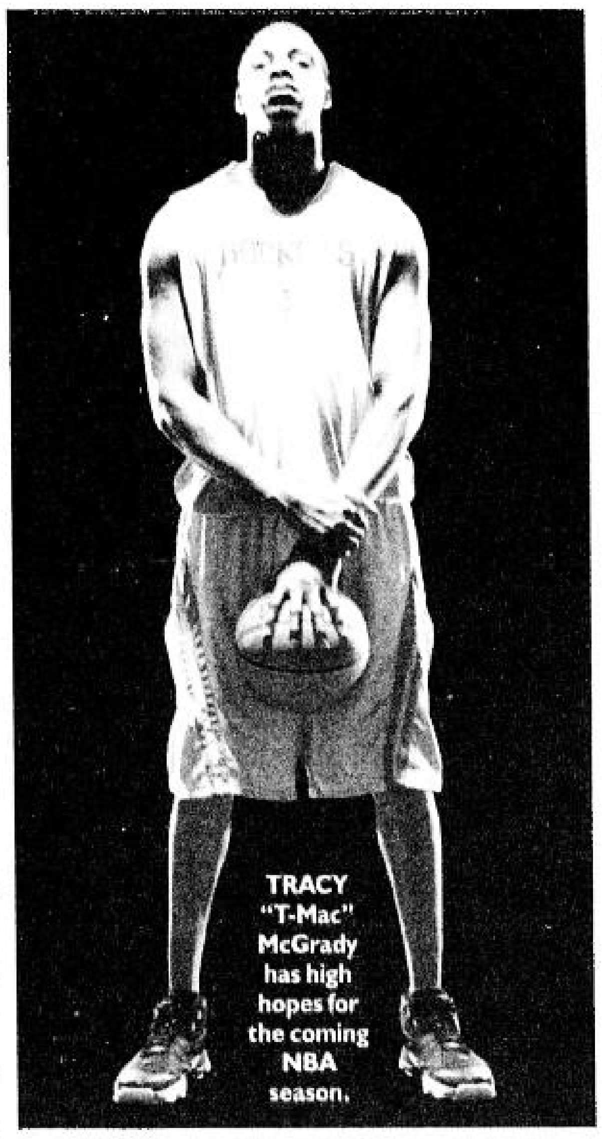
THE T-MAC shoes in black has a five-pod Adidas ForMotion™ technology. ForMotion™ is designed for athletes who use quick changes of direction for exceptional control and absorbed impact.

After his Manila visit, Tracy 'T-Mac' McGrady launches a new shoe: the T-Mac 6, a combination of his athletic creativity and Adidas' ForMotion™ technology

TRACY "T-Mac" McGrady is the only athlete in history to ever be given a lifetime partnership deal with Adidas.



T-MAC 6 suits Tracy "T-Mac" McGrady's game by giving a more comfortable, composed fit while reducing fatigue and potential injury.



TRACY "T-Mac" McGrady has high hopes for the coming NBA season.

ADIDAS HAS LAUNCHED THE T-MAC 6, a combination of NBA superstar Tracy McGrady's on- and off-court creativity and Adidas' ForMotion™ technology (formally Ground Control System).

"Inspiration for the T-MAC 6 comes from the way Tracy plays and his on-court creativity. He has this on/off type of play; he goes from super-relaxed to just explosive in a drop of a hat," said Kyle Pulli, basketball category designer. "This on-court creativity allows us, as a design team, the opportunity to create a shoe that mirrors him and the many amazing things he can do on the court."

The defining feature of the new T-MAC 6 is the Adidas ForMotion™ technology, which gives exceptional control during high-speed on-court play and adapts to that style and the court. ForMotion™ units are incorporated along the lateral outsole stretch to give maximum contact with the floor, adding stability to every move made on the court. No matter how hard the cut or how quick the step, ForMotion™ gives the player an assist on sure footing.

T-MAC 6 is a true combination of the Adidas ForMotion™ technology with T-MAC's creative style.

What does this mean to one's game? Instead of devoting extra energy and attention to staying in control, now you can focus on making that next quick cut to blow the opposition away.

The T-MAC 6 will come in two initial colors: black/red and white/black/red, with an additional color hitting the market in February 2007 around the NBA All-Star Game.

SAN BEDA RED LIONS: IMPOSSIBLE IS NOTHING

In their first year as an adidas-supported team, the San Beda Red Lions showed great determination and teamwork. They have indeed proven that 'Impossible is Nothing'!

The mantra "Impossible is Nothing" can't be truer than to the San Beda Red Lions. After 28 long years since their last victory in the NCAA and nearly a decade since they last entered the finals, the Red Lions gloriously emerged triumphant in this year's 82nd NCAA Championships. The Red Lions beat out Philippine Christian Univeristy, 68-67, at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions have proven that with talent, determination, and heart; anything is possible. "The San Beda Red Lions have struck basketball fans with an impressive comeback," says Joey Singian, Managing Director adidas Philippines. "They embody the spirit of our brand's battle cry."

"In their first year as an adidas-sponsored team, the Red Lions showed great determination, teamwork; and has indeed proven that 'impossible is nothing'. Not even a 28-year-long stump could hamper these youngsters in working towards winning the title once again," adds Singian.

"We hope to end this long wait, but we know that it would be really, really hard," Coach Koy Banal once said before the Red Lions went on to play the groundbreaking match against PCU. This year's 15-player team was handpicked by Banal. Starting at center was crowd favorite, MVP and Rookie of the Year, Sam Ekwe; while Yousif Aljamal began at power forward and Rogemar Menor at small forward. Team captain, Alexander Angeles started at point guard while rookie, John Paul Escobal served as shooting guard. The frontline included Raymond Maggay, Jay-R Taganas, Kristoffer Taupa and Martin Lloyd Antonio. The line-up is completed by Riego Meinardo Gamalinda, Eduardo Tecson, Jed Micah Evangelista, Kevin Espinosa, John Carlos Hermida and Eduardo Canlas.

The team's strength lies in the players' unique traits and playing experiences: Ekwe's impressive blocks, Menor's flexible ability to score inside and outside the court, Escobal's precision, Aljamal's and Angeles's professional experience with the PBL.

"Coach Banal made sure that we stayed focused on the game and put our best efforts into it," says rookie player and MVP winner, Samuel Ekwe. "He kept telling us: teamwork! And that's what we upheld and made all the difference This is a collective effort," he adds. "I can't do anything without my teammates. Without teamwork, individual skills mean nothing.

'Impossible is Nothing' meant a unified drive towards achieving our goal." Moreover, the team's fiery determination had been fueled even more by the Bedans themselves, who have stood by the Red Lions and cheered them to the end with the victorious realization of the school cry, "End 28 in 82."

Eternal Boy Scouts

Photo taken by Jim Gusao Punzalan on 28 September 2006, the night 'Milenyo' hit Manila. Reprinted with permission from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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PHOTO BY EDWIN BACASMAS

The sun also rises for Deborah

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A FEW DAYS AFTER DEBORAH SUN'S RElease from prison, her friend Amalia Fuentes took her to the movies.

"She wasn't used to going out. It seemed she was afraid of people. As if she wanted to hide behind me," Amalia recalled.

"I still have this fear in me," Deborah candidly told INQUIRER Entertainment.

It was because her incarceration had come as a huge shock to her, she surmised. "I was assured by my mom that it was okay for me to go home because my case had already been archived."

In October 2004, Deborah arrived in Manila from New York. After almost a year, in September 2005, she was thrown in jail for a 1989 case involving bouncing checks, filed by fellow actress Lorna Tolentino.

It was but one setback in a long line of disappointments for Deborah, or Jean Louise Salvador in real life.

In the 1970s and 1980s, she was a "scene-stealing" character actress, featured in the movies of manager Joey Gosiengfiao ("Temptation Island"), Lino Brocka ("Pasan Ko ang Daigdig") and Elwood Perez ("Pakawalan Mo Ako"). For the latter, she was nominated for a Famas Best Supporting Actress in 1981.

Vitti's twin

"French director Louis Malle wanted to hire her in a movie," Gosiengfiao volunteered. "Malle was the friend of Gerry de Leon's scriptwriter Pierre L. Salas. And I was told Malle saw her in my movie 'Bedspacer.' He compared Deborah to Italian actress Monica Vitti."

The international project, however, fizzled out.

Dizzying highs and lows have marked Deborah's life, like the stuff "Magpakailanman" and "Maalaala Mo Kaya" episodes are made of.

She was a mother at 16. At 24, she bore the child of a married man, fellow Regal Baby Jimi Melendez. At 31, she was a fugitive. At 42, she became a mother for the third time. At 47, she was a convict.

She described the 13 months she had spent in prison as a "learning experience."

"It made me stronger," she said.

She also quit smoking in the women's correctional, she proudly declared.

"I made a deal with God. I would give up cigarettes if He would shorten my stay there. It was the only thing I could offer. I couldn't give up men! I don't have a boyfriend now," she added with a hearty laugh. "Quitting smoking made me gain 30 pounds, though."

She followed all the rules in prison she said. "I made sure that my *carpete* (record) was clean. I didn't want to jeopardize my freedom. Every inmate is entitled to GCTA, Good Conduct Time Allowance. For good behavior, two months (from every year) is cut from your sentence."

Humanitarian

Deborah, sentenced to five years and eight months in jail, was originally scheduled for discharge on March 29, 2008 because of GCTA.

"My release came earlier because I was given a conditional pardon by President Macapagal-Arroyo, through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, for humanitarian reasons," she recounted.

Even before her imprisonment, she had been diagnosed with liver cancer. "I was also checked by doctors in jail."

Superintendent Rachel D. Ruelo and Amalia played key roles in securing Deborah's early release.

"I grew fond of Deborah because she's a good friend of Beth Bautista, my brother Cheng Muhlach's former partner," said Amalia.

Deborah related, "Superintendent Ruelo was kind to me. Ate Nens (Amalia or Nena) helped a lot. She made sure my papers were processed quickly. She also visited me every now and then. Other frequent visitors are Beth, Azenith Briones and Chito Alcid. My Tito Phillip (Salvador) also dropped by every third Tuesday of the month."

She admitted that she went through the usual denial period during her first few weeks in jail. "Later, I had no choice but to accept my fate. Even though the place and my fellow inmates were nice, it was still prison. It still took a lot of getting used to."

She has no bitterness in her heart, she insisted. "I blame no one but myself for what happened. My advice to other people is to avoid trouble. Don't sign checks *nang basta-basta* (indiscriminately). If they're not sure of something, they should think about it a hundred times."

Prison also taught her to take responsibility for her past errors.

"My biggest mistake was that I didn't attend

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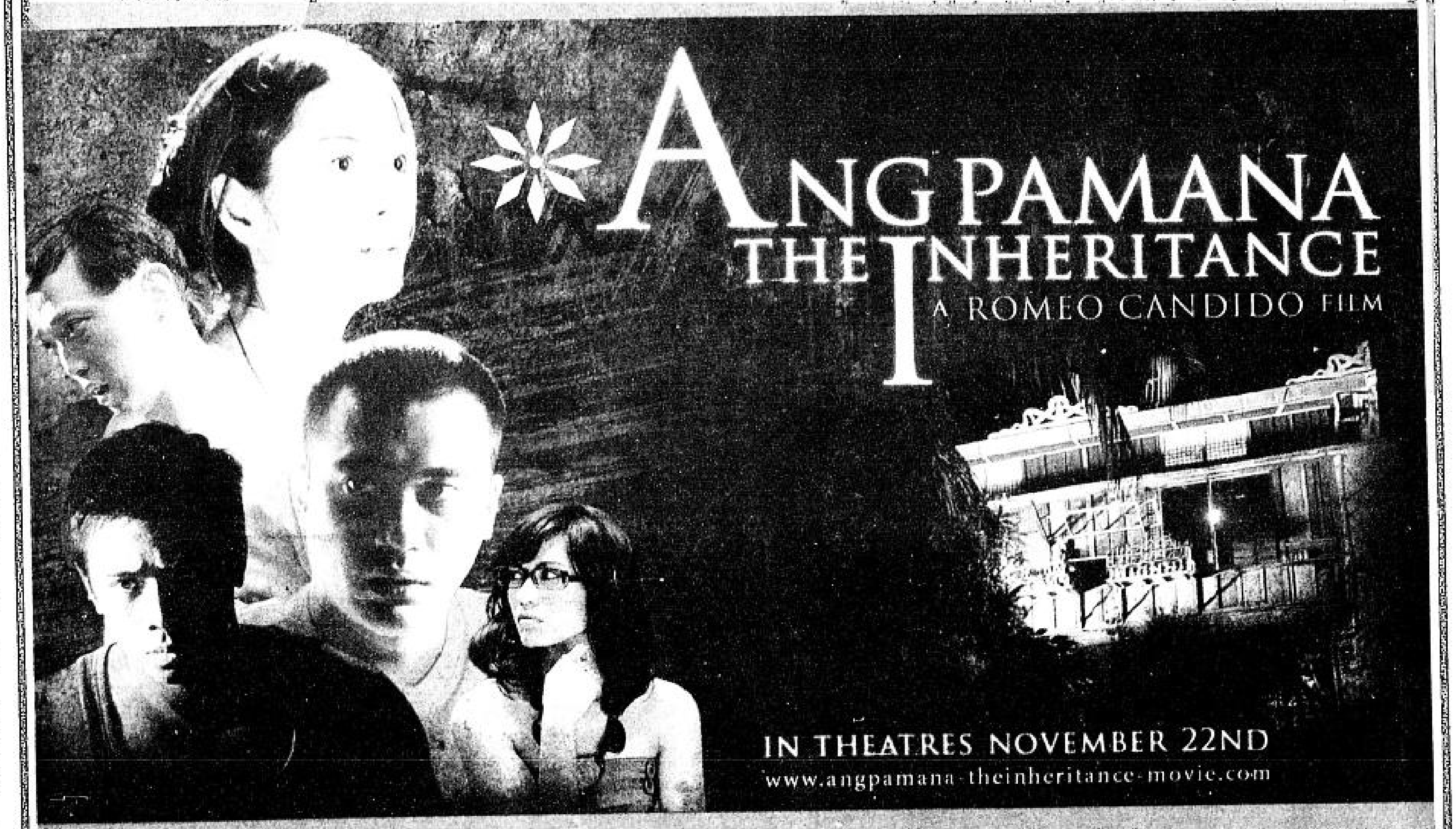
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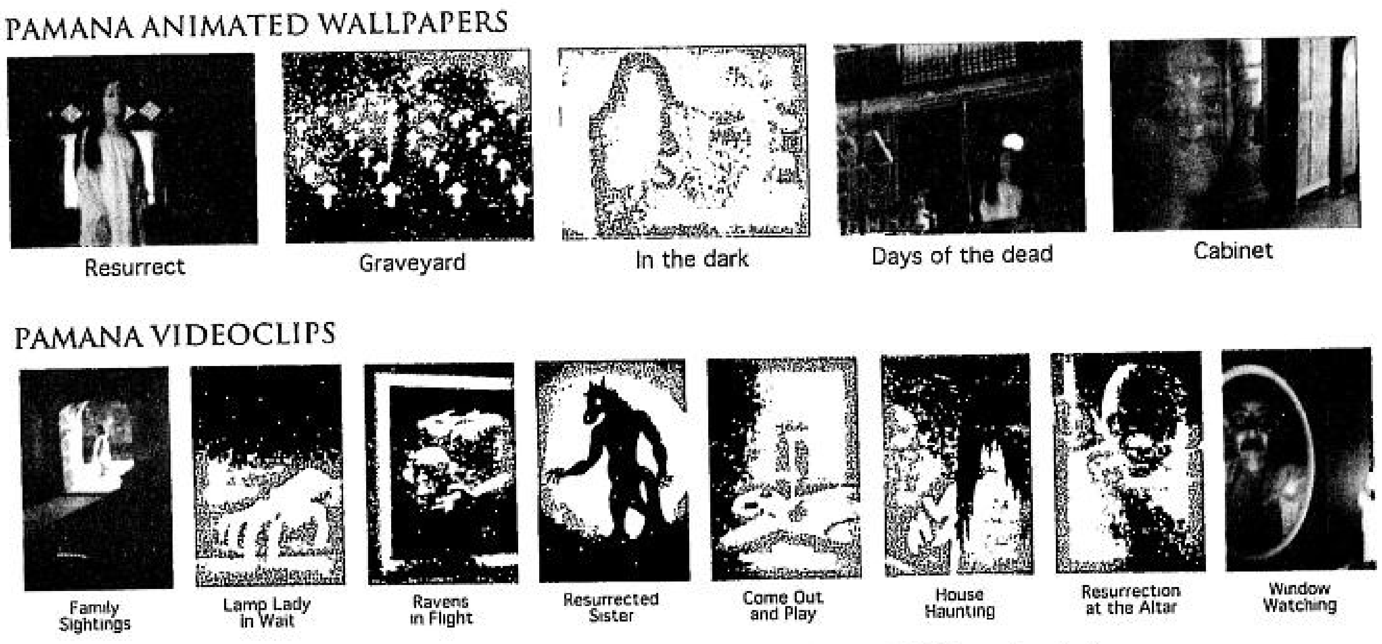
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15 years and counting

From page H4

our marriage.

In the darkest of times, did you ever consider leaving each other?

Isay: Oh, yes. We weren't Christians at the time, and our decisions and reactions were based on selfishness. Whenever I felt I didn't like the situation, I would always think of separating as the easiest option.

Robert: Well, yes. I thought it was the *only* option. I always blamed her. I never checked myself. I now trust God to guide me in making this relationship even better.

What are the advantages of having a partner who's also a show biz person?

Isay: It's easy to discuss ideas, which usually happens when we go out to dinner, or even at home, over a bottle of red wine.

Robert: We can rehearse whenever we want, even before bedtime.

What about disadvantages?

Isay: There are times when I can't just tell him off. It would be easier to [scold] him when he commits mistakes if I were just his manager. As his wife, I always have to wait for the proper time to do it. This is hard for me because I can get very impatient.

Robert: That you can rehearse even before bedtime!

What, for you, is the most difficult aspect of parenting?

Isay: Since work takes us away from our kids a lot, I compensate by bringing them to school even if I hardly had sleep. I also bring them to our shows and tolerate their *kakulitan*.

Robert: When I have to hide my feelings from them. There are times when I really want to spoil my kids, but I know this isn't good, so I just say no. It's hard to always be a role model.

How far would you go in terms of disciplining your children?

Isay: Taking away from them the very things that make them happy, like TV or cell phone or game cards.

How different is this year's "Love You, Hate You, Love You" from that one you did in 2005?

Isay: This is more fun! Teatrino (in Greenhills) is our turf because it's a theater. (Last year's shows were held at Merk's Bistro in Greenbelt, Makati.)

Robert: The stage is bigger so we can move more. We also have new songs and more gags.

Why did you choose to do an album of old Filipino songs?

Isay: I love *kundiman*. I also love black-and-white movies. I find them very romantic and very Pinoy. That's why I enjoy appearing in the TV show, "Aawitan Kita." We feel these songs should be heard and enjoyed by our children. If we don't share these songs with the youth, they will be forgotten.

Robert: Who doesn't like listening to Pinoy classics? There is nothing wrong with today's music, but listen to the melody and lyrics of the classics and you'll agree with me.

Which song from the nine tracks in the CD is closest to your heart?

Isay: I like Robert's rendition of "Kahit na Magtiis," by Ernani Cuenco and Levi Celerio.

Robert: I like Isay's version of "Ang Mahalin Ka," by Ryan Cayabyab and Jose Javier Reyes.

What else do you plan to do?

Isay: I'd like to manage and develop more talents, produce quality shows, musicals and albums.

Robert: We aspire for world-class entertainment and right treatment for all artists.

DEBORAH wants to take 24-year-old son Jam back to the US. "My dream is for my entire family to live there." EDWIN BACASMAS

The sun also rises …

From page H1

my hearings. I was tried in absentia because I gave up the chance to defend myself," she looked back. "I chose to run away."

It was her father, the late actor-director Leroy Salvador, who had counseled Deborah to move to the US, "so that I could start a new life."

Life in NY

In New York, she worked as sales associate for stores like Banana Republic and Armani.

"(Hollywood actress) Susan Sarandon was my regular customer in Banana Republic Fifth Avenue. She lived with Tim Robbins downtown and they often bought clothes for their children from the store," she remembered. "Ate Luds (the late TV host Inday Badiday) also visited me in New York."

She was in the Big Apple at the time of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. "All the stores downtown were closed. I worked near the World Trade Center."

The uncertainty in post-9-11 America was one of the reasons Deborah had thought of home.

Her 6-year-old daughter Jemmalyn is now living with her mom, Corazon "Baby" Porcuna in Los Angeles, she said.

To digress a bit: Her mom's colorful life was turned into a movie by filmmaker Danny Zialcita—"Hindi sa Iyo ang Mundo, Baby Porcuna," for which Beth Bautista won an Urian Best Actress in 1978.

"That's why my mom is close to Beth. My mom's youngest brother is (gangster) Boy Golden. Rudy Fernandez (Lorna's husband) played him in the movies."

If she resettles in the US, she would need to "start from scratch," she acknowledged. "I have to look for a new job and a new house to rent. My things were put in storage. I don't know if I can retrieve them. It's as if I've lost everything."

Now, her immediate goal is to work in the Philippines. "But I need to have my teeth fixed before I could start working. I need to earn my plane fare back to the US. I also want to take my (32-year-old) daughter Jelanie and (24-year-old) son Jam there. My dream is for all of us to live there."

Being a green card holder, she can avail of free medical treatments there, she said. "I hope I'll have offers to do movies and TV shows again. I'm even willing to join a game show!"

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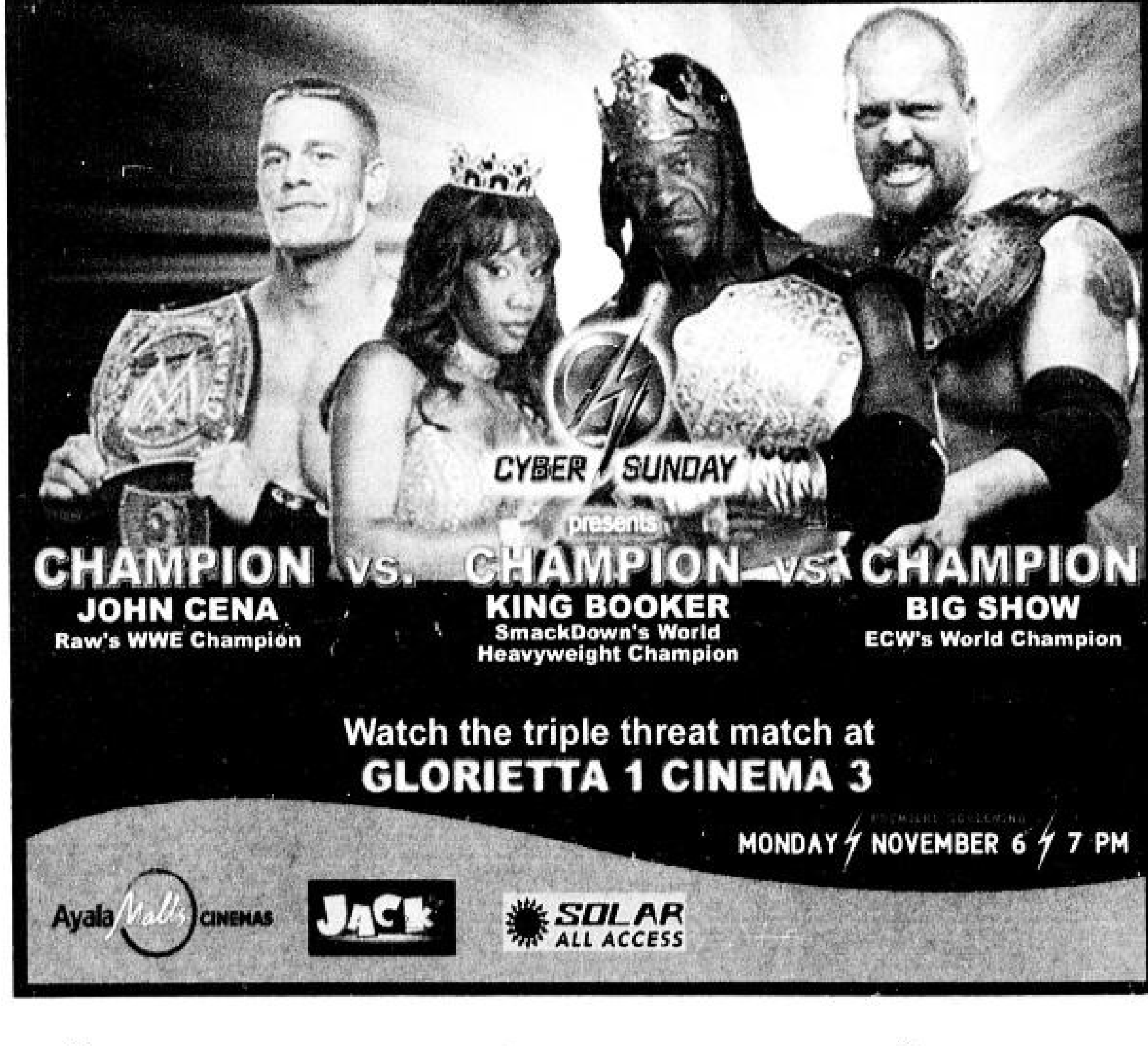

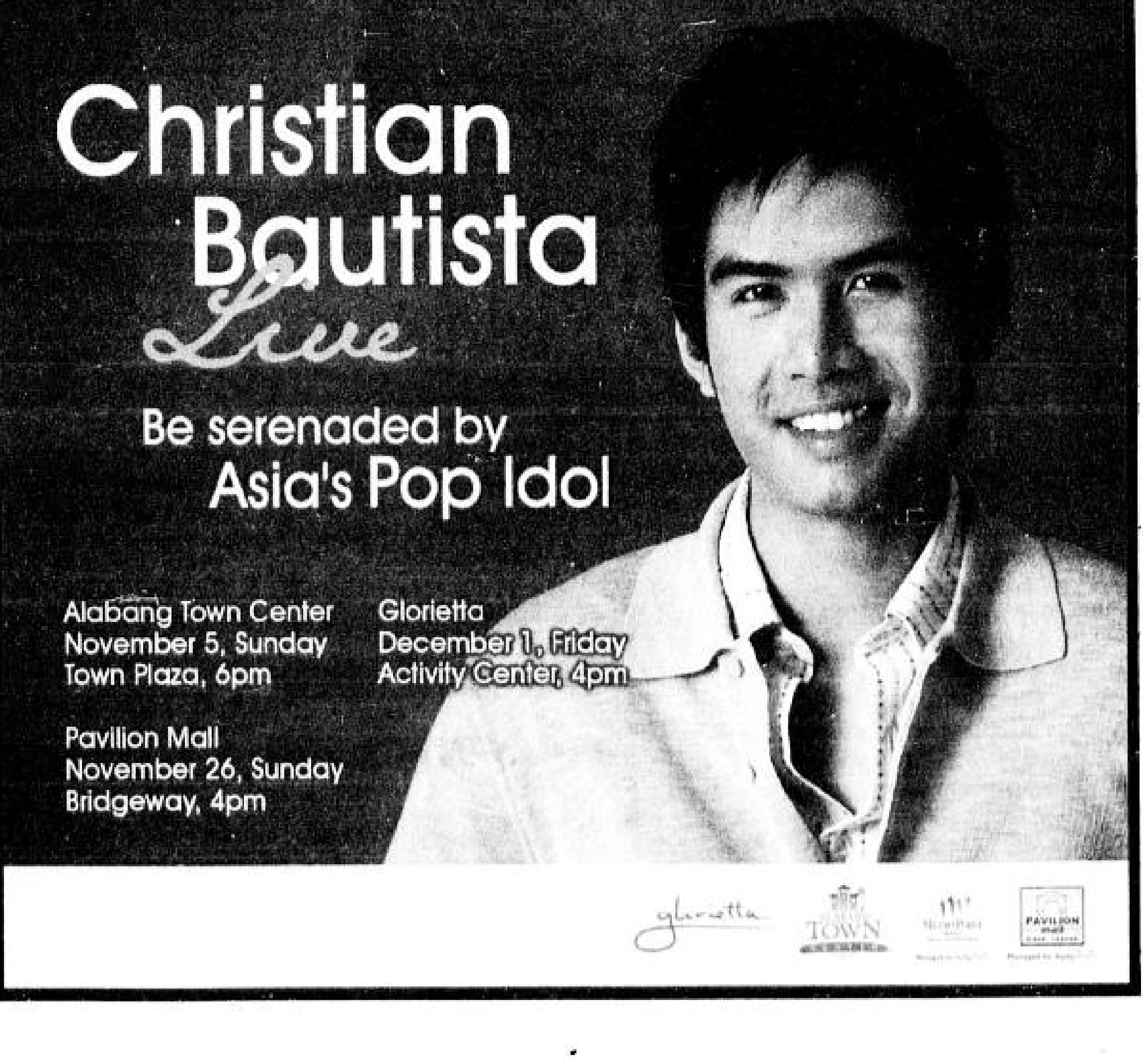

From viewer to content provider

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

UP TO THE LAST FEW YEARS, THE LINES IN the traditional chain of broadcast communications were clearly drawn: The broadcaster produced the radio-TV program content, the technology beamed it out, and the viewer received it.

From time to time, experiments in more direct viewer participation were conducted, but there mostly involved the viewer communicating his reactions to program content, choosing between two possible endings to a televised drama, etc.

Some programs did involve members of the audience by asking them to phone in their views, love stories or problems, suggest song selections, or "make *bati*" to their relatives or friends, but that was about it.

These days, however, some Internet services are threatening to turn the communication equation upside-down, by encouraging viewers to become content providers themselves.

They do this by sending in their own video material, which the Internet services then run, for other viewers to unload.

This is no longer just a tentative experiment but a thriving business which grosses billions of dollars a year. It also attracts heavy viewer participation, to the tune of some 65,000 video clips a day!

This is a major development that should be underscored and celebrated, because it opens up the video field to practically anybody with a camera, and thus democratize the communication field.

At long last, mass media need no longer be controlled by a few powerful and wealthy individuals or organizations. If you want to say or show something, you can now do so on the Internet for a potential mass audience to appreciate and react to, as long as you observe ethical and legal guidelines.

To be sure, this new development is fraught with risks and dangers, both seen and unseen. With almost everything up for grabs, the boredom and weirdness quotients of the enterprise are expected to be high. One reason why shows are seldom excellent or turn out to be big hits is that only a few people are good at programming.

The issues of ownership and privacy are also major concerns. Some videos have been submitted without their owners' permission, and a number of people have loudly complained that the unauthorized airing of their videos has subjected them to ridicule and has resulted in their loss of privacy.

Clearly, stronger rules and guidelines have to be put in place now, as the Internet video services are gaining in popularity, or else this new and very promising development could engender more problems than benefits. That would be such a tragic subversion of a major movement that could eventually revolutionize the all-important field of video communication as we know it.

'Cake'

IN HER latest starrer, "Cake," **Heather Graham** plays travel writer Pippa McGee. She takes a break from her freewheeling life, only to discover that her tyrannical father has had a heart attack. The stricken publishing mogul needs her to edit his Wedding Bells magazine.

Pippa is forced to accept the assignment, but gets much more than she bargained for. She has an affair with a freelance photographer, is loved by another man, finds herself loaded with work and wanting out—but it all sorts itself out in the end: "Cake" is not just about growing up, but growing up with passion, heart and truth.

'The Prestige'

IN THE "MAGICAL" film, "The Prestige," **Scarlett Johansson**'s character is torn between to ace, rival magicians, played by **Hugh Jackman** and **Christian Bale**.

Directed by **Christopher Nolan**, the film casts Johansson as Olivia, the mysterious woman who is Jackman's assistant before she becomes Bale's. Out of pure malice, Jackman's character sends Olivia to spy on his rival—with complex consequences.

> Internet services attract heavy viewer participation

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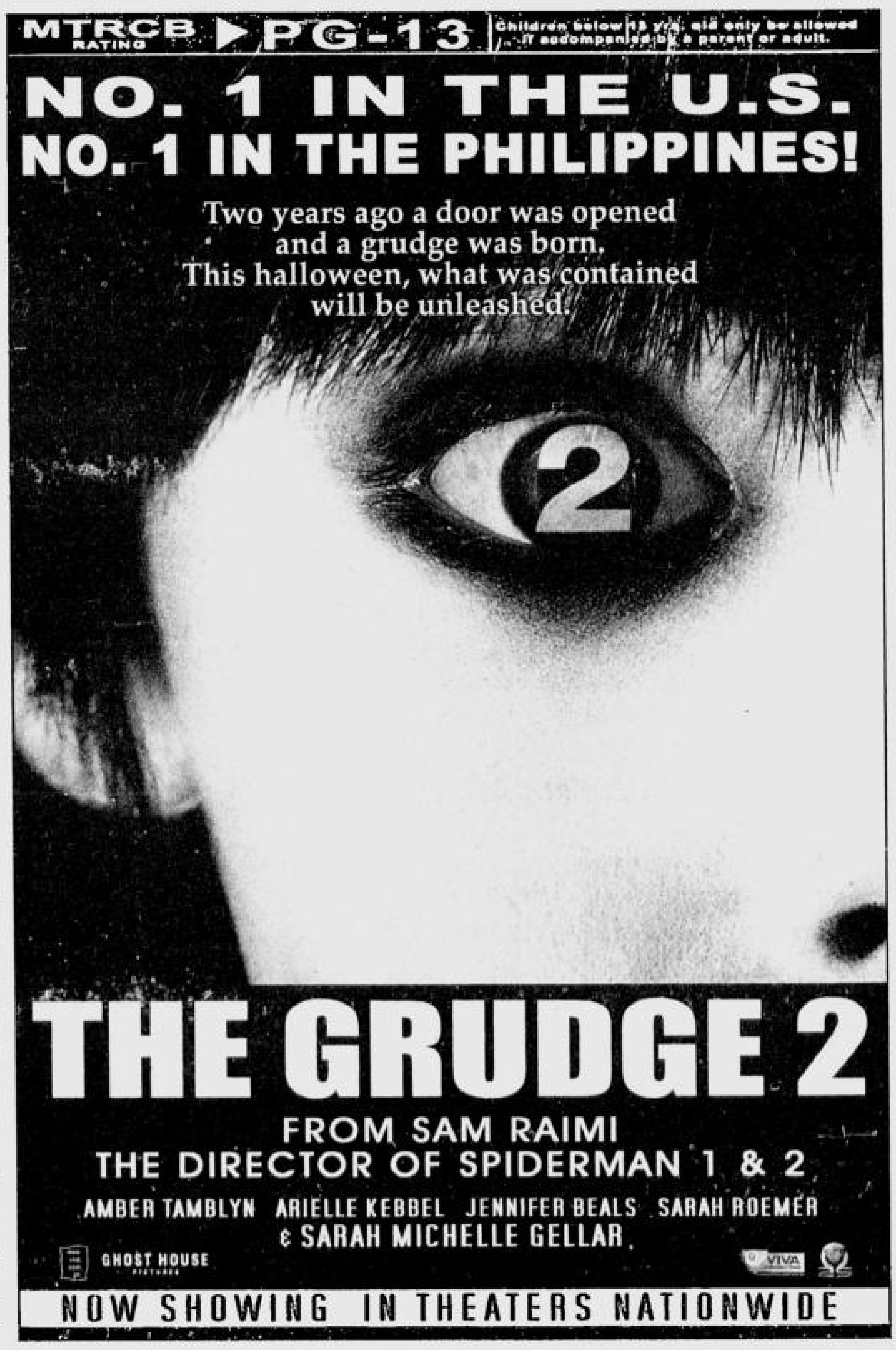
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GALLERIA	632-9116
1 THE BANQUET • THX 1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00	6 Reserve for Victory Christian Fellowship
2 THE PRESTIGE 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00	7 FEAST 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	8 TXT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 OPEN SEASON 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50	9 THE GUARDIAN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
5 THE GRUDGE 2 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	10 TILL I MET YOU 12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:45

ERMITA	536-7809 to 12
1 THE GRUDGE 2	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 OPEN SEASON 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	5 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 TXT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	6 FEAST 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 TILL I MET YOU 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50	7 THE PRESTIGE 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST	682-8193 • 682-8199
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER 12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00	5 TXT 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
2 THE GRUDGE 2 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10	6 FEAST 12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10
3 OPEN SEASON 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	7 THE PRESTIGE 12:40 3:20 6:10 9:00
4 TILL I MET YOU 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	8 THE GUARDIAN 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

NOVALICHES	935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 THE GRUDGE 2	3 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU	4 THE PRESTIGE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575	PIONEER 687-5378
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	1 THE PRESTIGE
2 TILL I MET YOU	2 THE GRUDGE 2
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2 THE BREED	2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU	3 THE BREED
4 OPEN SEASON	4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332	ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER	1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE	2 OPEN SEASON
3 OPEN SEASON	3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU	4 THE GRUDGE 2

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188	STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 OPEN SEASON	1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE	2 TXT
3 THE GRUDGE 2	3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TILL I MET YOU	4 MY FIRST WEDDING
	5 THE GRUDGE 2
	6 THE PRESTIGE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459	ILOILO (033) 336-8076
1 THE GUARDIAN	1 THE GUARDIAN
2 THE DEPARTED	2 OPEN SEASON
3 DEAD OR ALIVE	3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED	4 PULSE
5 OPEN SEASON	5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU	

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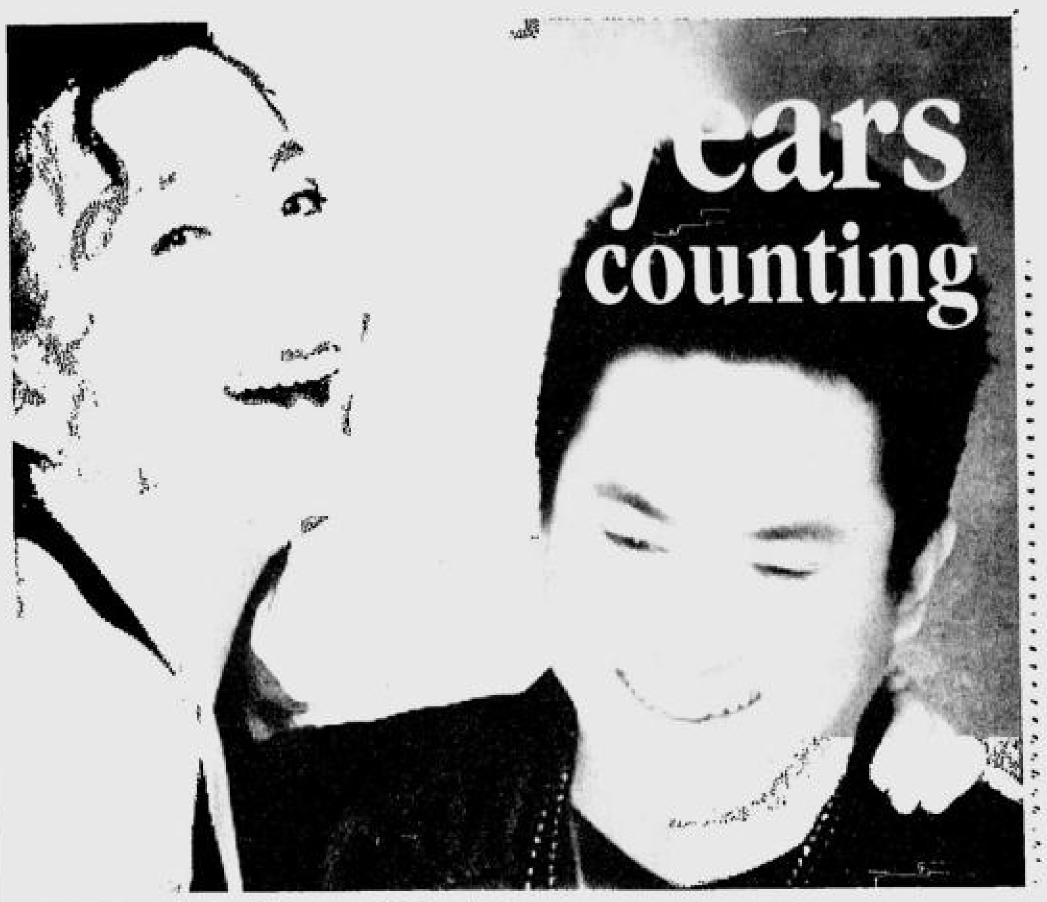
Nov. 26 Sun • 4pm



SINGING couple Isay Alvarez and Robert Seña

By Marinel R. Cruz

TAKE FIVE

FOR SHOW BIZ COUPLES TO REMAIN MARried for 15 long years is not a mean feat, singing duo Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez admit.

There was a time, they say, when they actually considered going separate ways. This was when Robert accepted work in London while Isay and their three kids lived here in Manila.

"Living apart and growing apart is not good for marriage," Isay points out.

Robert adds that it was also difficult when he got involved in "too much worldly stuff."

But Isay says, "I'm sure God was just trying to teach us some things. We both realized [our mistakes] before it was too late."

The couple is celebrating the highs and lows of their relationship in a comedy musical titled "Love You, Hate You, Love You" at the Teatrino in Greenhills on Nov. 3, 9 and 10.

They have also made "Dueto," a compilation of Filipino classics, produced by IRC Music and distributed by Ivory Music and Video Inc.

How did the two of you meet?

Isay: We first worked together in the musical "Magsimula Ka."

Robert: I was a chorus boy; she was the lead star.

How did you court Isay?

Robert: I didn't. I used the familiarity technique. Waiting... just waiting until she gets tired of saying "No!" Until her only alternative was to say "Yes."

What made you say yes?

Isay: It's funny but we were really good friends when he started giving me the hint. When he first asked me to dinner, my reaction was, "No way! I know you too well to fall into your trap." He then gave me flowers and my favorite apples, which he put inside the trolley I used in the Bangkok scene in "Miss Saigon." I fell for things like that. I got drawn to him little by little. I then started seeing him as my Romeo, not just as a buddy.

What do you think is the key ingredient in your successful marriage?

Isay: We're best friends. We enjoy doing a lot of things together. We still do even after 15 years of marriage.

Robert: On top of that, we accept and acknowledge the fact that God is the navigator of

15 YEARS/ H2

Globe and DOT give foreign visitors a warm welcome

The highly skilled and trained interpreters of the Meet and Assist program are all smiles on and off duty.

Friendly interpreters are always on hand to help foreign visitors.

A visitor gets help as he goes through regular airport procedures.

Tourists arriving from Narita, Japan flock to the Meet and Assist booth.

Foreigners can easily feel at home in the Philippines, thanks to the Meet and Assist Program of the Department of Tourism (DOT) in partnership with Globe Telecom. The Meet and Assist Program offers tourists to the country a warm touch of Filipino hospitality as soon as they arrive, with friendly interpreters fluent in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese who are always on hand to help.

The Program has been such a big help that the DOT believes that it puts the Philippines on the world map in terms of friendliness and helpfulness. "Seasoned travelers have told us that in all the places they've been to, the Philippines is one of the best countries that provide excellent reception service at the airport. Meet and Assist helps promote the Filipinos' reputation as the friendliest in Asia," notes DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

First launched at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) two years ago, the Meet and Assist Program was so successful that it was also soon implemented at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA), one of the country's largest airports and a main travel hub to many of the South's major tourist attractions. Since then, thousands of foreign visitors and tourists have benefited from the Meet and Assist Program.

The interpreters of the Meet and Assist Program help foreigners get off to a good start while they're here. Trained in arrival procedures plus the DOT's special Mabuhay Hosting Program, the friendly interpreters go out of their way to lend a hand so that visitors can have an enjoyable stay in the country. "During primary inspections and interviews, there are things that need to be clarified and we need interpreters on hand to help us," attests Ariel Reyes, an immigration officer.

"Once, we helped a Korean student call his mentor abroad to clarify his accommodations here. We were able to help him make the call and he was picked up by a representative from his school," recalls Isidra James, an interpreter of the Meet and Assist booth at the MCIA.

Globe Telecom also helps visitors have a worry-free stay in the Philippines by keeping them connected back home through Globe's International Roaming Services. There's also a 24-hour hotline for roaming assistance. Globe links tourists to over 200 international destinations so that they can still feel connected with their families abroad.

"Globe Telecom is a very important and supportive partner in promoting the country's tourism industry," DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said.

Korean, Chinese, and Japanese interpreters are always on duty to assist foreign visitors.

DOT Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano: "Meet and Assist will boost the tourism industry's frontline services."

Foreigners thank an interpreter for facilitating their inquiry at an airport information window.

Visitors can easily contact their loved ones back home thanks to Globe's International Roaming Services.

The Meet and Assist booth is accessibly located right after the Immigration area for convenience.

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Miss Earth pulls out of Chile

By Armin Adina

MISS EARTH WILL BE HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES again on its sixth year.

During the pageant night in September last year, pageant organizer Carousel Productions announced that Santiago, Chile would host the 2006 Miss Earth pageant.

But Carousel president Ramon Monzon recently said the Philippines would play host this year as usual because "some requirements were not fulfilled by the organizers in Chile."

Carousel project director Peachy Veneracion explained, "The Chilean organizers could not confirm the venue of the pageant, hotel accommodations for the participants and the television station that would broadcast the event."

"They don't even have a swimsuit provider," added Joji Felix-Velarde, Carousel vice president for external affairs. "I pleaded with [Tourism Secretary] Ace [Durano] when the pageant was set for Chile. I didn't want Miss Earth to leave the country. It was born here, it should stay here."

Felix-Velarde said the pageant was her group's way of helping the country by promoting tourism. "God heard my prayer," she said.

The Chilean government apparently didn't give enough support, Veneracion said.

Until June, Chile was still listed as host. But by September, when basic requirements remained unmet, Carousel officials decided to pull the pageant out of the deal and back to the Philippines, where it had been staged for the last five years.

MISS Earth 2005 Alexandra Braun Waldeck
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Outgoing queen Alexandra Braun from Venezuela was delighted with the decision. "This is my second time here in the Philippines and I'm happy to be back," she said to members of the media recently. "I have a lot of memories and great experiences here. You have a great country… with a great heart."

Miss Philippines Catherine Untalan appeared unfazed by her being a host-delegate. "It pushes me to give my best," she said, admitting there's "more pressure because everyone's watching." But she vowed that her countrymen would be "proud of me."

More than 90 delegates are expected to arrive at the Traders Hotel, their official residence, starting Nov. 4.

Coronation night is set on Nov. 26 and will be telecast on ABS-CBN at 9:30 p.m. The ceremonies will be beamed to some 70 other countries via Star World and The Filipino Channel.

Liz Taylor denies marriage plans

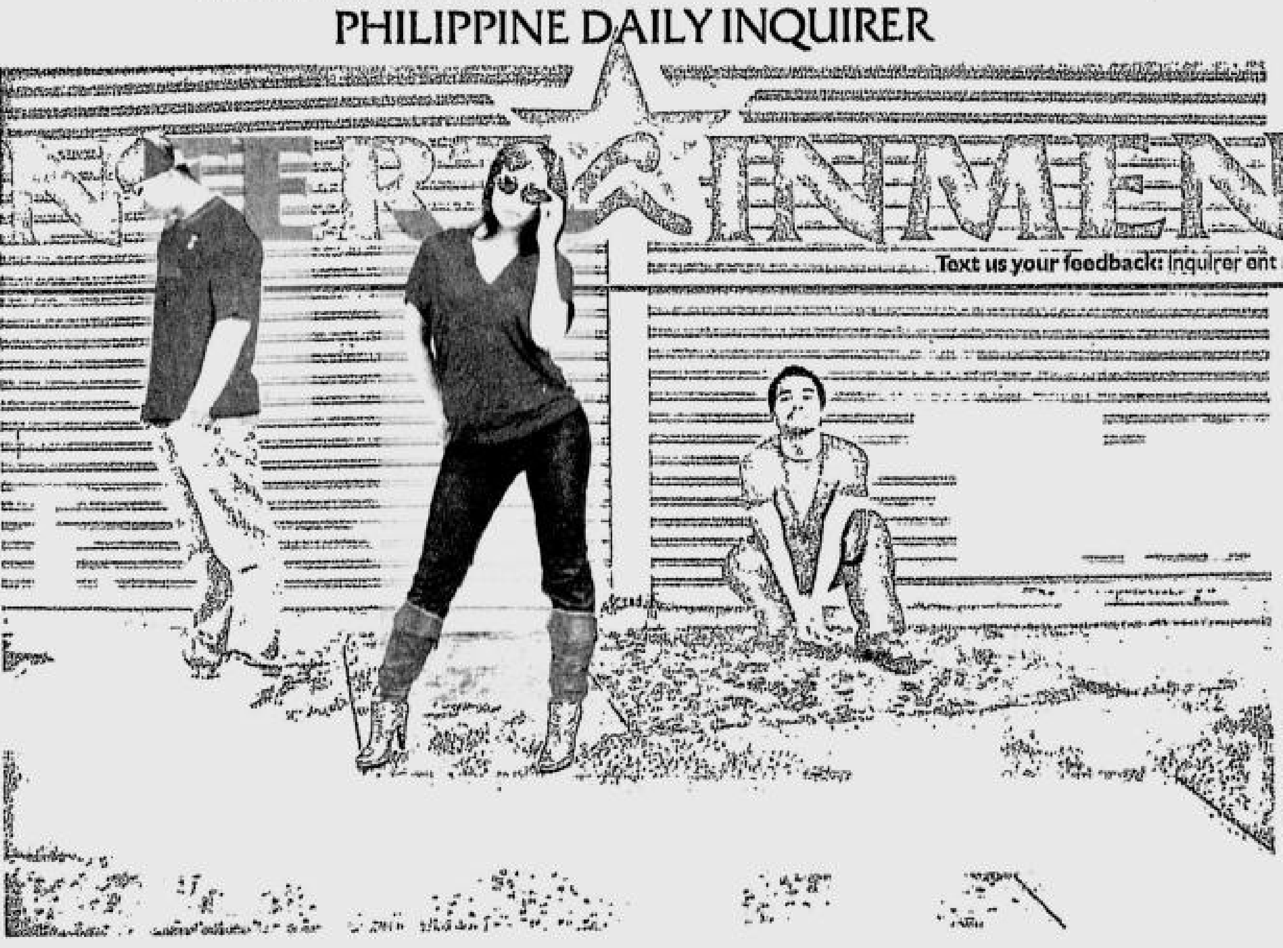
DID YOU KNOW...

LOS ANGELES—ACTRESS ELIZABETH Taylor on Thursday denied reports that she was planning to marry for the ninth time.

Taylor, 74, is being linked romantically with artist-photographer Firooz Zahedi, her personal photographer on her mid-1970s film projects.

Taylor, who called Zahedi "an old and dear friend," said they "have never been and will never be romantically involved."

The violet-eyed actress has been married eight times, twice to actor Richard Burton. Her last marriage, to building laborer Larry Fortensky, ended in divorce in 1996 after about four years. *Reuters*



WHY THEY ARE WEARING RED

VJs KC Montero, Cindy Kurleto and Marc Abaya anchor MTV-Unicef's "Unite for Children, Unite for AIDS" campaign via the 4th Staying Alive Music Summit, set Dec. 5 at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field. Red is the movement's official color. A "Wear Red" signature drive was launched on Wednesday.

MTV Philippines' Marco Borlongan explains the music channel's dedication to the the campaign: "Our relationship with the youth of every generation since the 1980s runs deep, and we are fighting to protect them by educating them on HIV/AIDS in ways that we've learned [as the most effective] in sending the message across."

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Elena Jalon, Zamboanga City

Promo ended Oct.15, 8pm. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0585 Series of 2006.

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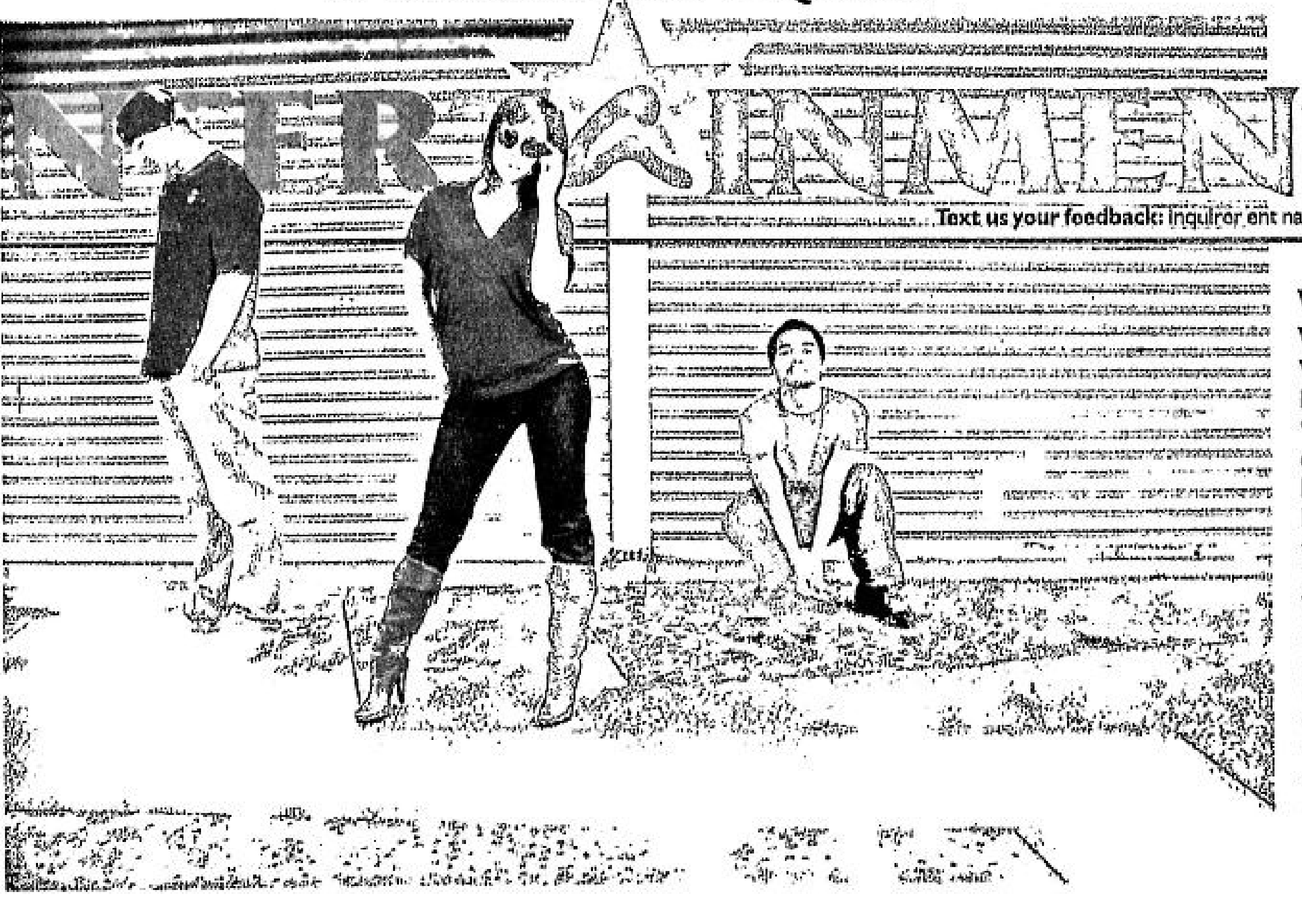

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Tracy Ann Mojica, Novaliches, Quezon City
Roberto Ng Jr., Navotas, Metro Manila
Elena Jalon, Zamboanga City

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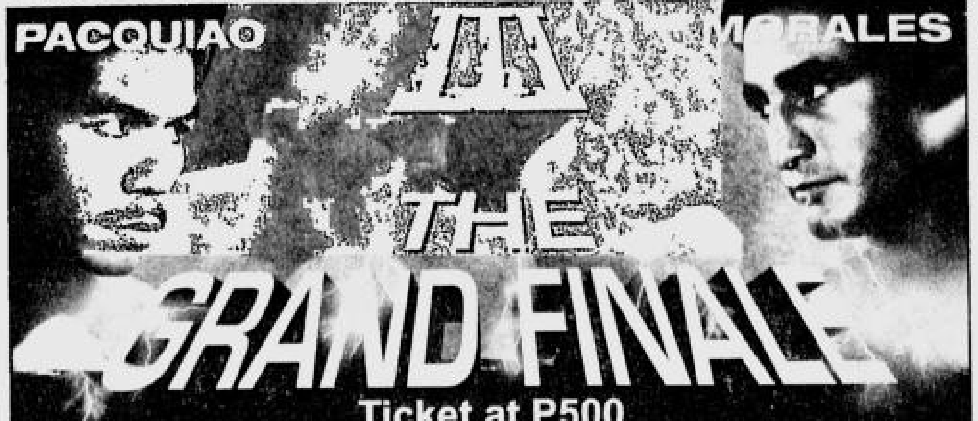

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2. FEAST
3. THE PRESTIGE
4. THE GRUDGE 2
5. OPEN SEASON
6. TXT

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WORLD TRADE CENTER

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1. THE GUARDIAN
12:15PM 12:45PM 3:30PM 6:15PM 8:35PM 9:00PM
2. THE BANQUET
12:00PM 12:30PM 2:45PM 5:00PM 7:15PM 9:20PM 9:30PM
3. THE PRESTIGE
12:20PM 12:40PM 3:15PM 5:50PM 8:00PM 8:25PM
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:00PM 11:10PM 1:30PM 3:50PM 6:10PM 8:15PM 8:30PM
5. OPEN SEASON
6. WORLD TRADE CENTER
7. THE PRESTIGE
8. TILL I MET YOU
9. RESERVED
10. FEAST
11. TXT
12. THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333201-04
1. OPEN SEASON
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CINEMA 2
THE PRESTIGE
633-8976

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1. THE DEPARTED
2. WORLD TRADE CENTER
3. PHILIPPINE IDOL
4. JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5. OPEN SEASON
6. THE PRESTIGE
7. FEAST
8. TXT
9. THE GRUDGE 2
10. TILL I MET YOU
11. THE GUARDIAN
12. THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1410
1. THE GRUDGE 2
2. THE PRESTIGE
3. WORLD TRADE CENTER
4. TXT
5. TILL I MET YOU
6. FEAST
7. THE BANQUET
8. BARANG
9. OPEN SEASON
10. THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1. THE PRESTIGE
2. OPEN SEASON
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1. THE GRUDGE 2
2. THE PRESTIGE
3. FEAST
4. OPEN SEASON
5. WORLD TRADE CENTER
6. TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1. ANNAPOLIS
2. THE BANQUET
3. FEAST
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER
5. THE GRUDGE 2
6. BARANG
7. THE PRESTIGE
8. TILL I MET YOU
9. TXT
10. PULSE
11. THE GUARDIAN
12. OPEN SEASON

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1. THE PRESTIGE
2. STICK IT
3. BARANG
4. TXT
5. OPEN SEASON
6. THE GRUDGE 2
7. PULSE
8. THE GUARDIAN
9. WORLD TRADE CENTER
10. TILL I MET YOU
11. THE BANQUET
12. FEAST

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1. THE GRUDGE 2
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. THE PRESTIGE
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER
5. FEAST
6. TXT
7. THE GUARDIAN
8. OPEN SEASON
9. BARANG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1. OPEN SEASON
2. THE GRUDGE 2
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. THE PRESTIGE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
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2. THE GUARDIAN
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. OPEN SEASON

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1. BARANG
2. THE GUARDIAN
3. THE GRUDGE 2
4. TXT
5. THE PRESTIGE
6. TILL I MET YOU
7. WORLD TRADE CENTER
8. OPEN SEASON

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1. OPEN SEASON
2. THE PRESTIGE
3. THE GRUDGE 2
4. FLY BOYS
5. TILL I MET YOU
6. TXT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1. OPEN SEASON
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1. THE DEPARTED
2. OPEN SEASON
3. FLY BOYS
4. TXT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637081-85
1. TXT
2. OPEN SEASON
3. THE GRUDGE 2
4. THE PRESTIGE
5. MY FIRST WEDDING
6. TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1. THE BREED
2. OPEN SEASON
3. THE DEPARTED
4. TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1. OPEN SEASON
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. WICKER MAN
4. THE DEPARTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1. WORLD TRADE CENTER
2. OPEN SEASON
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. FLY BOYS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3180
1. THE PRESTIGE
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341285-88
1. THE BREED
2. OPEN SEASON
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. TXT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1. THE PRESTIGE
2. WORLD TRADE CENTER
3. THE GUARDIAN
4. OPEN SEASON
5. PULSE
6. THE DEPARTED
7. TILL I MET YOU
8. THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1. DEAD OR ALIVE
2. RESERVED
3. THE BREED
4. OPEN SEASON
5. THE GUARDIAN
6. STEP UP
7. RESERVED
8. PULSE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1. THE GRUDGE 2
2. OPEN SEASON
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. PULSE
5. STEP UP
6. THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1. THE DEPARTED
2. OPEN SEASON
3. THE GUARDIAN
4. FLY BOYS

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

Hot treat or trick

RUSHES

WE GOT THIS E-PHOTO (RIGHT) AND accompanying blurb in the mail.

The blurb says: "There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the upcoming (November 2006) cover of FHM Philippines. The editors of the ... magazine [say] they have never had a model [until now] agree to shoot some of the hottest and most daring poses ever in Philippine print media. But much to the delight of the [mag's] most loyal fans, FHM has released a copy of the cover, set to hit magazine stands around the country in two weeks."

Treat or trick?

FHM
P300
2K6 NOVEMBER SPECIAL
FHM GIRLS NEXT DOOR 2K6
THE 50
WILD GIRLS!
MADAM AURING!
18

MADAM AURING

Flying dagger

When a local movie hero is seen catching a flying dagger in an action scene, it is usually a "reverse shot," a knowledgeable source told us.

This means the character is actually throwing the bladed weapon and then the shot is "reversed," to make it look as if he is catching it.

An actor-politician demanded one such "reverse shot" for his latest potboiler. A well-meaning staff member quickly pointed out: "But there are so many dragonflies. If we do a reverse shot, they would be seen flying backwards!"

They did it, anyway.

The last to know

A producer wants to pull out his Metro Manila Film Festival entry. According to a confidante, the movie exec has shelved the project and is eyeing a March 2007 shoot instead.

The director and stars, however, were the last to know of the change of plans.

At press time, not even MMFF officials are aware of the development.

Prodigal baby

From Regal Baby to prodigal son?

He used to be Regal producer Lily Monteverde's favorite leading man. But Dennis Trillo is reportedly peeved that he lost the lead in "Mano Po 5: Gua Ai Di" to Richard Gutierrez.

"That's old news," Roselle Monteverde-Teo told Rushes.

Was that why he was a no-show at the "TXT" premiere?

"I don't know what his reason was. It's just that my mother (Lily) thinks it's too soon for another Dennis Trillo-Angel Locsin team-up after 'TXT.'"

Mother Lily is certain: "Dennis is a good boy. He doesn't make *tampo*."

The Hungry Bum

NEW YORK—Brad Pitt found an interesting way—make that walk—to blow off steam and bring some levity to the set of his new movie, "Babel."

In an interview in Entertainment Weekly's Oct. 30 issue, the 42-year-old actor says he amused himself and his colleagues by yanking up his pants, sticking out his rear and waddling about like a duck. "Throughout the movie, I'd walk around like this," he says.

"You've gotta find things to make you laugh during the shoot," he adds. "Cate (Blanchett) called it the Hungry Bum."

He explains: "When your bum's so hungry it's trying to eat your pants." *AP*

Not poor sales

NEW YORK—Mariah Carey's manager says a financial default by a promoter, and not poor ticket sales or demands by the pop star, caused the cancellation of her weekend show in Hong Kong.

Carey, who recently finished her nationwide "Adventures of Mimi" tour, was to perform Saturday at an outdoor space in Hong Kong. It was to be the last stop on the tour after performances in Japan this week, her manager, Benny Medina, said Thursday.

But in a posting on its Web site, promoter Concerts Asia said the Hong Kong date was canceled because the 36-year-old singer had made "specific last-minute demands which we find wholly unreasonable and not with the best interests of Hong Kong, us and also the fans."

The promoter also said it had only sold 4,000 tickets, despite a "substantial" advertising campaign.

In an interview with The Associated Press, however, Medina disputed those claims. He said 8,000 tickets had been sold, and blamed the cancellation on the tour promoter's failure to pay Carey money that was due to her. *AP*

THE CAST of "Inang Yaya"

IZA CALZADO

BRAD PITT

KIRSTEN DUNST

TIM ALLEN

Inhabiting Santa

"The Santa Clause 2" director Michael Lembeck on his lead star Tim Allen: "An amazing thing happens when Tim gets in the Santa suit. He literally, totally inhabits the character."

Allen on his character: "I wonder what it would be like without Santa Claus? How weird would it be to not have this great mythical figure in the world?"

Penguins again

George Miller co-wrote, produced and directed the animated feature "Happy Feet," which he calls the "dancing-penguin movie." Understandably, he is often asked about the documentary, "March of the Penguins." He clarifies: "'Happy Feet' started long before 'March ...' was released. The fact that the documentary was so successful was a double delight because it helped set up interest in our [project]."

"HAPPY FEET"

Kirsten and Marie Antoinette

Why Kirsten Dunst related so well to her "Marie Antoinette" character: "I started acting when I was 11 and, since then, I've been constantly surrounded by adults, and by people I'm trying to please. That's why I really understood the situation she was in—leaving her home and coming to this place where there were all these expectations and all these judgments about her."

About a nanny

Maricel Soriano tackles the role of a devoted nanny in Unitel's "Inang Yaya," inspired by the real-life experience of scriptwriter Veronica Velasco. Early press dispatches say the movie is for "everyone who's [had a *yaya*], is a *yaya*, cares enough to be a *yaya*, craves the perfect *yaya*, or whose life has been touched by a *yaya*." Gee, that leaves out so few Pinoys.

'Siren of the Strip'

This is the new label for singer Lani Misalucha, who's now based in Las Vegas and singing with the Society of Seven. We remember SOS, which used to be an all-male group, for earlier having another Filipino, Jun Polistico as lead singer.

Aside from Lani, the current SOS consists of Tony Ruivivar, Bert Sagum, Marc Escueta, Hoku Low, Vince Mendoza, Roy Guerzo and Wayne Wakai. They play Wednesdays through Sundays at the Flamingo. Tickets can be purchased online at www.flamingolasvegas.com.

DJ AROMA

Smitten with RP traffic

Inspired by her three-day tour of the Philippines, German DJ Aroma is set to record "Manila" as the final track of her forthcoming 12-track "Skyline" album, due out in December.

DJ Aroma performed at several Manila nightspots and at the Manila Zoo as part of the celebration of German month.

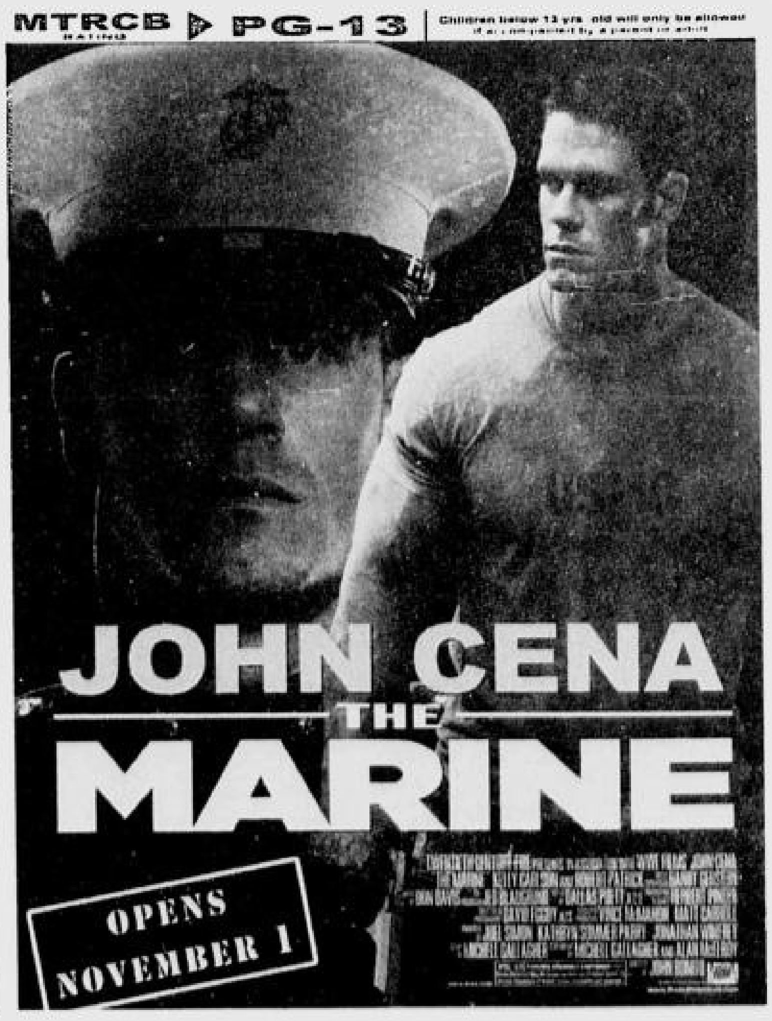
"In Manila, we met some of the friendliest people in the world," she says. Also, there were so many things happening everywhere we went—people rushing, traffic—it was a whole new experience for us."

Sense of style

Direct quote from Iza Calzado, new endorser of Soda by Pink: "I feel honored and flattered especially because [the] current crop of endorsers are very respectable and have an obvious sense of style."

She refers to Mariel Rodriguez, Bianca Gonzales and Borgy Manotoc.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



Speedy, spirited joyride

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

Will Ferrell mines race car driving for laughs

WHILE MANY MIGHT THINK THAT RACE car driving is a no-nonsense and humorless sport, Will Ferrell mines it for comedic gold as a dumb but dependable NASCAR driver in "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby."

Reunited with his "Anchorman" collaborator, director and co-writer Adam McKay, Ferrell co-creates a transparent, transfixing goof who, while not exactly skilled at expressing himself for TV cameras, is beloved as the spry speed demon of the tracks. It's the "everyman" journey once again, but "Talladega Nights" has enough rib-tickling pit stops, thanks to a thorough enough exploration of its simple but promising premise.

Ricky Bobby, the champ "with two first names," isn't without his pathos—when he was just a boy, his drunk-junkie father Reese (Gary Cole) hightailed out of his life. Reese did, however, inspire the speed-obsessed Ricky to aspire to be the best, many years later when he's making a living out of driving fast cars. Originally a pit crew member, he gets incredibly lucky when a rare chance to pinch-hit for an inept driver during a race presents itself. He wins, as expected, and a series of victories follows along with countless endorsement deals. But a series of new tests awaits him, as a new opponent challenges his growing complacency.

Selectively funny

Ably owning the exaggerated but oft-hilarious role of Ricky's challenger is Sacha Baron Cohen, who plays the gay Frenchman, erudite racing champion Jean Girard. He's Ricky's antithesis, a nice contrast to the big guy's less sophisticated mindset, but Jean is similarly fearless and quite confident that he'll emerge victorious against his celebrated opponent eventually. Rattled by his competitive and accomplished rival, Ricky begins to doubt his own abilities, and sure enough, selectively funny high jinks ensue.

Ferrell conveys a consistent simple-mindedness to Ricky Bobby with the character's lines, the material accentuated by his deadpan delivery, brutish flailing and facial expressions (he's funniest when his face is all scrunched up and serious). But he's also quite funny when he typically resorts to yelling and panicking, as when he experiences meltdowns on the speedways and other venues.

"Talladega" also easily elicits laughs as characters that continuously do implausible and incomprehensible things are pleasantly handled by the inspired supporting cast, which also includes John C. Reilly (as Ricky's dim-witted friend), Leslie Bibb (as the materialistic but practical "driver's wife"), Molly Shannon (as a rich, gabby alcoholic) and Andy Richter (Jean's partner and an excellent dog trainer).

The movie is also funny when it uses well-placed pop culture references (Ricky's sons are named Walker and Texas Ranger; nobody plays the Pet Shop Boys record in the rowdy bar, etc.). But it noticeably and gradually slows down in parts where Ricky tries to get his groove back. Still, the movie picks up and speeds away to a satisfying, if silly, climax, where Ricky and Jean's competition finally gets resolved (while the old Pat Benatar anthem "We Belong" pounds away in the background!).

By the end of the race and the movie, the characters have grown up and become wiser—well, maybe just a little, but it's nevertheless a reckless and riotous road trip prior to their epiphanies.

wonder
wonder
Spice

"TALLADEGA NIGHTS" stars Will Ferrel and John C. Reilly.

Scare fare

NICKELODEON ON ABC BEGINS ITS HALloween special with the lovable blue pup as she investigates the source of scary sounds in a haunted house in "Blues Clues" at 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Oct. 31.

At 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Dora and Boots set off on a journey to look for wizard El Encantador's magic wand in "Dora the Explorer."

"SpongeBob turns the tables around by trying to scare everyone at Mr. Krab's Halloween party in "SpongeBob SquarePants" at 8 a.m.

KID FIT

Resident phantom fighter attempts to beat Dash in a haunted house-decorating contest in "Danny Phantom" at 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Halloween treat

The singing sensation The Chipmunks—Alvin, Simon, Theodore—and their human father Dave go on a wild and wacky adventure when they get stuck overnight at the Majestic Movie Studios in "Alvin & the Chipmunks Meet Frankenstein."

Unknown to them, Dr. Frankenstein has created an attraction called Frankenstein's Castle at the studio with a real Frankenstein monster.

The movie premieres 8 a.m. today on Cartoon Network.

STAR AWARDS for TV 2006 names

GMA
STATION of the YEAR
for the 14th time

Best News Program, **24 ORAS**
Best Public Service Show, **WISH KO LANG**
Best Public Affairs Program, **DEBATE**
Best Public Affairs Hosts, **WINNIE MONSOD & OSCAR ORBOS for Debate**
Best Travel Show, **PINOY ABROAD**
Best Travel Show Hosts, **IVAN MAYRINA & RHEA SANTOS for Pinoy Abroad**
Best Public Service Show Host, **MIKE ENRIQUEZ for Imbestigador**
Best Female Newscaster, **VICKY MORALES for Saksi**
Best Gag Show, **BUBBLE GANG**
Best Comedy Show, **BAHAY MO BA 'TO?**
Best Comedy Actor, **OGIE ALCASID for Bubble Gang**
Best Comedy Actress, **RUFA MAE QUINTO for Hokus Pokus**
Best Youth-Oriented Program, **LOVE TO LOVE**
Best Daytime Drama Series, **NOW & FOREVER**
Best Showbiz-Oriented Talk Show, **STARTALK**
Best Variety Show, **EAT BULAGA**
Best Talent Search Program, **STARSTRUCK 3**
Best Reality Competition Program, **EXTRA CHALLENGE**
Best Reality Competition Hosts, **PAOLO BEDIONES & ETHEL BOOBA for Extra Challenge**
Best Horror/Fantasy Show, **MAHIWAGANG BAUL**
Best Talent Search Program Host, **REGINE VELASQUEZ for Pinoy Pop Superstar**
Best Educational Program Host, **CHRISTINE JACOB for Mobile Kusina**
Best New Female TV Personality, **MARIAN RIVERA**

Pati ang Qtv, humirit din with 3 awards!
Best Lifestyle Show, **GANDANG RICKY REYES**
Best Lifestyle Show Host, **RICKY REYES**
Best Gameshow Host, **ARNEL IGNACIO for Now Na!**

Maraming Salamat, mga Kapuso!

Ang tiwala pong ito ang nagsisilbing inspirasyon sa amin
upang patuloy kaming makapaghatid sa inyo ng mga programang
inyong kagigiliwan, aabangan at lubos na pagkakatiwalaan.

'Buhay na ang Pinoy Global Cinema!'

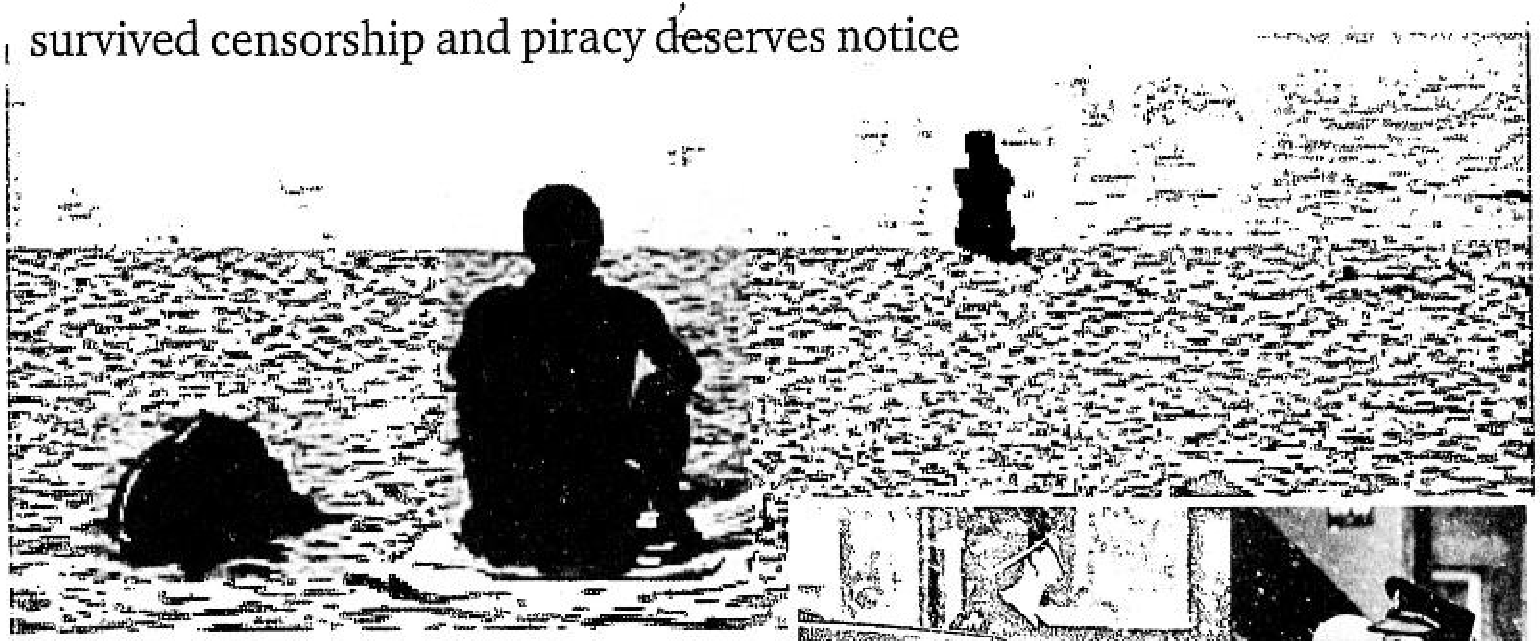
Cinemanila 2006's slogan is a misnomer, but the fact that the festival has survived censorship and piracy deserves notice

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE 8TH CINEMANILA INTERnational Film Festival is being mounted on Nov. 3-15 in SM Digital Cinemas at the Megamall, SM North Edsa and the Mall of Asia; in Greenbelt Cinemas at Ayala Center, Makati City; and in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts Auditorium in Intramuros, Manila.

It will feature 75 full-length films from 35 countries in five sections—World Cinema, Young Cinema, Digital Lokal, Philippine Panorama and Sineng Pambata.

If that sounds like news, that's because it is. Just the fact that the country's premier international film festival has persisted and survived the onslaught of years of censorship, video piracy and slack attendance is already big news.



"CLIMATES"

While, in previous years, local cinephiles would froth at the mouth every time an international or foreign film fest was being held in the country, these days no one sees anyone drooling in anticipation at the news of another such event forthcoming.

Take the films for competition in Cinemanila 2006. Some of these have already won awards or got notices in major festivals abroad—Mike Leigh's "Vera Drake" in Venice; Ken Loach's "The Wind That Shakes the Barley" in Cannes; Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Climates" in Cannes; Aleksandr Sokurov's "The Sun" in Berlin; Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" in Moscow.

Setbacks

And most unfortunate of all, most of these, including Stanley Kwan's "Everlasting Regret" and Park Chan-Wook's "Sympathy for Lady Vengeance," have been circulating on bootleg DVDs for months. Thus, their novelty has already worn out long before they can appear on our theater screen.

Then there is that erratic scheduling and variable, not to say wide-ranging, screening venues that could frustrate many a potential moviegoer. Even a hard-core cinephile would rather stay put at home than get harassed in the traffic, float in uncertainty, not to say spend more for a movie, even if it means watching spectacles in a box.

Despite these setbacks, however, Cinemanila has become a showcase for local films that later get invited to international filmfests and grab major awards or receive citations. Among these are Mes de Guzman's "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong, " Bricio Santos "À lá Verde, à la Pobre," John Torres' "Todo Todo Teros," Paulo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos' "Ilusyon," Auraeus Solito's "Tuli."

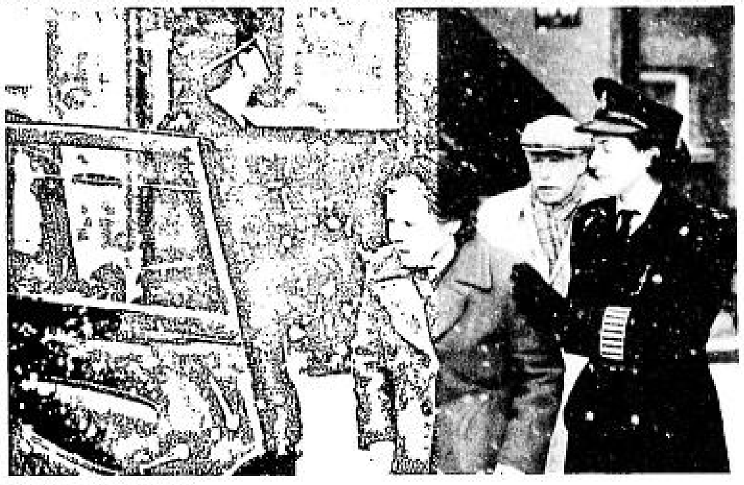
We also acknowledge this festival as the first to recognize the digital revolution in local cinema and institutionalize it with a section devoted to it. Digital filmmaking is being touted as the future of Philippine cinema, as inferred from the strong showing of such Filipino films in festivals abroad. Thus this year's Cinemanila theme: "Buhay Na ang Pinoy Global Cinema!"

That slogan sounds like a misnomer, since it is actually a reviving and not a birthing of our national cinema. This resurgence of Filipino films is being recognized by no less than Cannes film fest director and artistic delegate Christian Jeune, as he is reportedly chairing the jury in Cinemanila's Digital Lokal competition.

But film fest organizers also want to remind local moviegoers that they have had a lively film culture long before. It remembers the Filipino movie's golden past, and this year it is holding as highlight a week-long Lino Brocka retrospective.

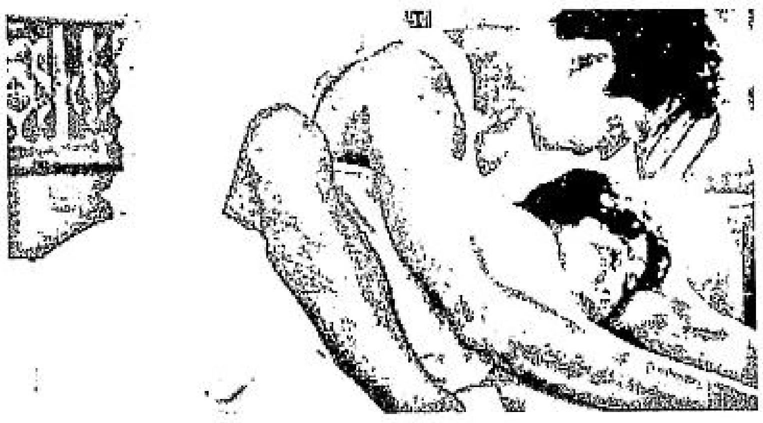
Brocka classics

To be screened are Brocka's internationally acclaimed classics such as "Insiang" and "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang." Memorabilia of the late National Artist for Film will be exhibited at the NCCA.



"VERA DRAKE"

"THE WIND THAT SHAKES THE BARLEY"



"EVERLASTING REGRET"

The NCCA will also be the venue for a special outreach workshop on guerilla filmmaking on Nov. 10-11; a screenwriters' master class under Vasilious Blioumis, Nov. 11-12; and a workshop on screenplay writing to be conducted by Clodualdo del Mundo Jr. and Pete Lacaba, Nov. 13-14.

The festival opens at the Center Stage of Mall of Asia with the screening of Michel Gondry's "The Science of Sleep" on Nov. 3 at 7 pm. It closes with Lav Diaz's "Heremias."

FEEDBACK

Thanks, but ...

**From Paolo Villaluna
Director, "Ilusyon"**

Thanks for the report on "Ilusyon."

We need to clarify that the movie was also an official entry to the 2006 Pusan International Film Festival in Korea. "Ilusyon" and Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" was in the Winds of Asia program and Michael Sandejas' "Tulad ng Dati" was under the New Currents program.

CJ Media, which inked a distribution deal with Viva Entertainment for "Ilusyon," picks its choices from the official selection and not from the Asian Film Market.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
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CINEMA 1 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:00 , 1:45 , 4:30 7:15 , 10:00 PG13
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PROMENADE
SHOWING
CINEMA 3 OPEN SEASON 11:15 , 1:25 , 3:35 5:45 , 7:55 , 10:10 GP
CINEMA 4 THE GRUDGE 2 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 5 THE PRESTIGE 10:40 , 1:35 , 4:25 7:15 , 10:10 R-13
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NOV 10 & 11, 2006 PINKY A , MONIQUE W, JUNO HENARES 9:00 PM
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NOV. 3 , 9 & 10 ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA 8:30 PM
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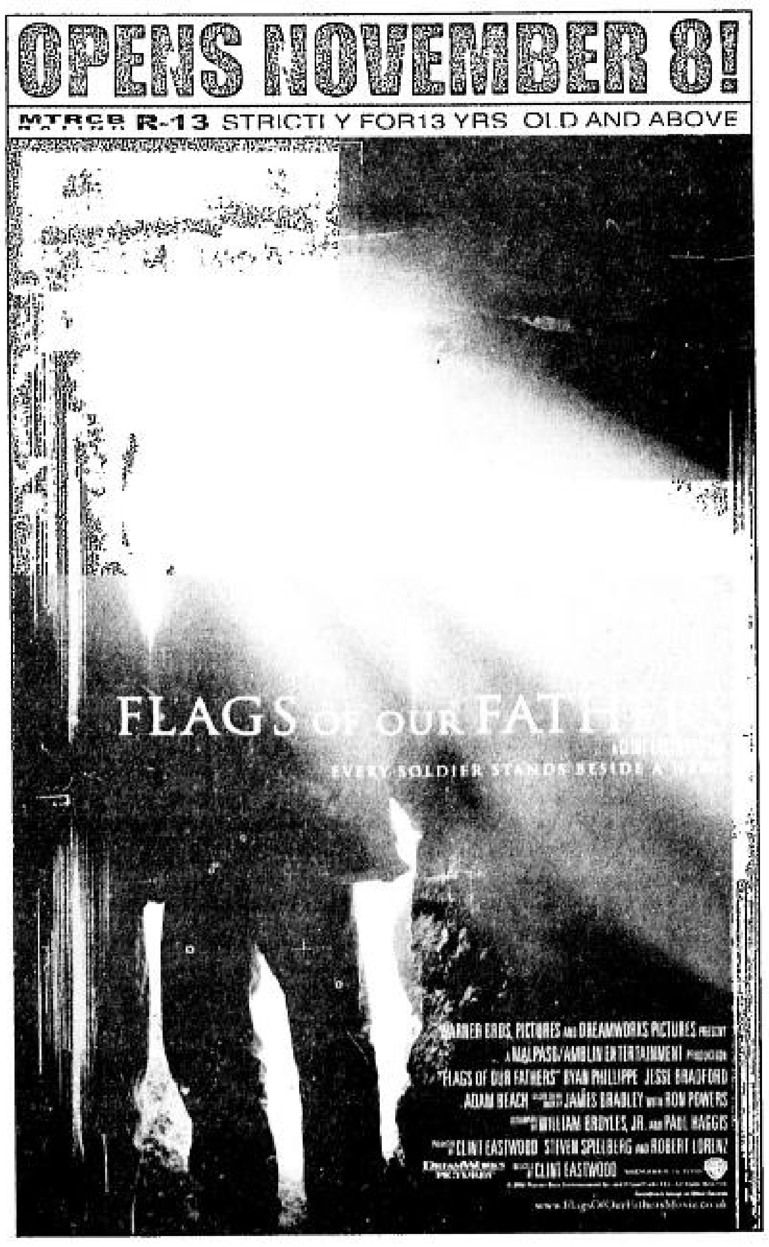

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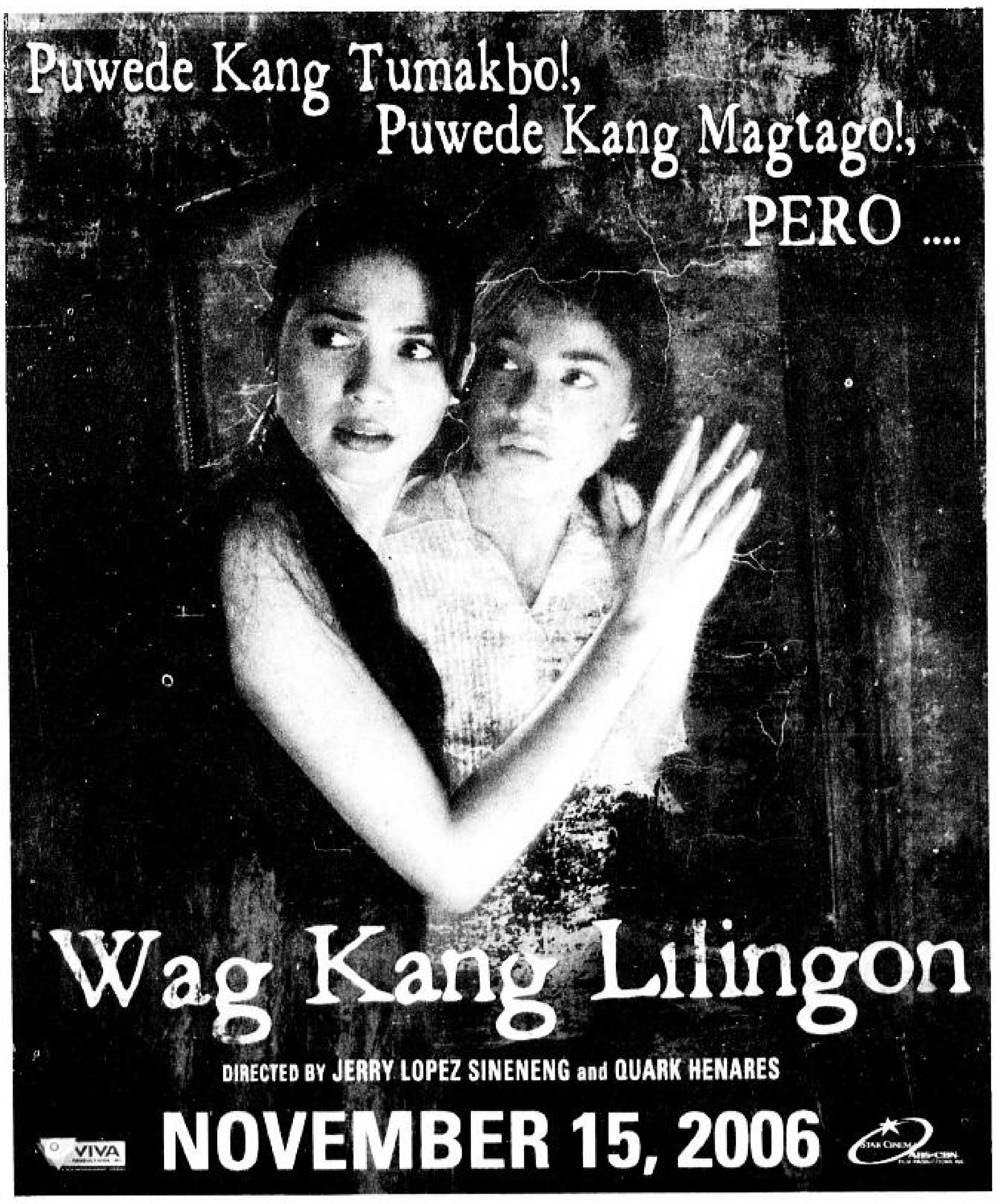
WILLIAM BROYLES, JR. AND PAUL HAGGIS
CLINT EASTWOOD STEVEN SPIELBERG AND ROBERT LORENZ
CLINT EASTWOOD



Nina takes on OPM hits in 'Gold'

AFTER THE SUCCESS OF HER album "Nina Live," people have been associating Nina with the songs "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways," "Foolish Heart," and other cover versions of English pop hits.

But on Nov. 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30 and Dec. 1 and 3, 9 p.m. at the Music Museum, she takes on a repertoire of classic OPM songs from the '80s and '90s in "Gold (Precious OPM Hits)."

This will be Nina's first time to perform an all-OPM repertoire of English and Tagalog hits that include songs like "Friend of Mine," "Pain," "Give Me A Chance," "Till I Met You," "Don't Know What To Do" "Sana Dalawa ang Puso Ko," "Urong Sulong," "Nanghihinayang," "Forever Blue," "Miss Na Miss Kita" and "Bukas na Lang Kita Mamahalin."

"It's really an honor for me to be given the chance to sing some of the best OPM songs," says Nina. "It's the first time I'll be singing most of them; I hope I can do justice to the songs."

Call 891-9999, 721-6726 or 726-2713.

Ballroom dancing

THE country's champions of ballroom dancing in regional and international competitions will show their winning moves in "Ballroom Superstars" for the benefit of old and ailing priests.

"These priests may not get to watch the show," says producer Dr. Yolie Balmes, of Power Heads. "But they will have the satisfaction of knowing our audiences will be enjoying themselves. And while they are enjoying themselves, they are also doing something to help others."

The affair will be a phenomenal show of the country's world-class Latin and standard couples who have garnered awards in competitions abroad, and featuring ballroom diva Ednah Ledesma, who won the championship in Latin dancing in Blackpool (London) last year.

The shows open at the Queen Margarette Hotel in Lucena City, Nov. 4 before moving on to the Laguna Provincial Cultural Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, Nov. 11; the Hotel Ponte Fino in Batangas City, Dec. 1; and the Casino Filipino in Tagaytay City, Dec. 7.

A ticket to the show includes dinner and the ballroom dancing that follows after the show.

Call Kristine 09273211295, Vanesa 09175047612, Maricel 09274787750, Malou 09157960994.

Concert tour

Winston's Wings Tour 2006 defied the rains by successfully holding parties in the weekends of July, August and September. Bamboo performed at Aruba in Pasig, Gweilos, Eastwood Libis and OIC Bar in Cagayan de Oro, leaving the spectators totally satisfied. The band's reign of power included a homecoming at Mayric's, España, where every inch of space was occupied.

Parokya ni Edgar conjured signal number 3 at 6Underground Makati, Xander's, Ortigas and in the faraway cities of Naga and Legaspi, to the delight of the loyal Winston crowd.

Meanwhile, at Ratsky in Quezon City, The Dawn held court, doing what it did best—rocking hard and fast like a tornado. Sugarfree stormed Bulacan solo and, together with Sandwich, later flooded Nueva Ecija with Pinoy rock music. True Faith created its own tempest at the Batangas Country Club, wowing the crowds with its signature moves and grooves.

Not even the foulest weather could dampen the Winston spirit of fun. If the success of this rainy season for Wings Tour 2006 is any indication, the rest of the year is going to experience clear and sunny parties all the way to the grand music blast in December.

SHOW TIME

Tonight

The Ambassadors at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Tomorrow

Retrospect at Ratsky Morato

Orange and Lemons and Coffebreak Island at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

October 31

MP Strings and Juan Pablo Dream at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

Haloween Party with Spy at '70s Bistro, Anonas, QC

Silk & Steel at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3

November 3

Orange and Lemons at Ratsky Malate

November 4

Kim Flores in a musical opera entitled "Karim at Jasmin" at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater)

November 11

Wally and Jose with Rufa Mae Quinto at SM Pampanga

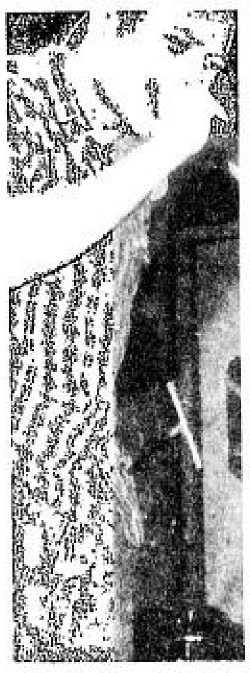
Frio at Robinson's Manila

November 18

Frio at Ever Gotesco Commonwealth

November 24

Frio at Ever Gotesco Recto


BAMBOO at OIC Bar in Cagayan de Oro

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NINA

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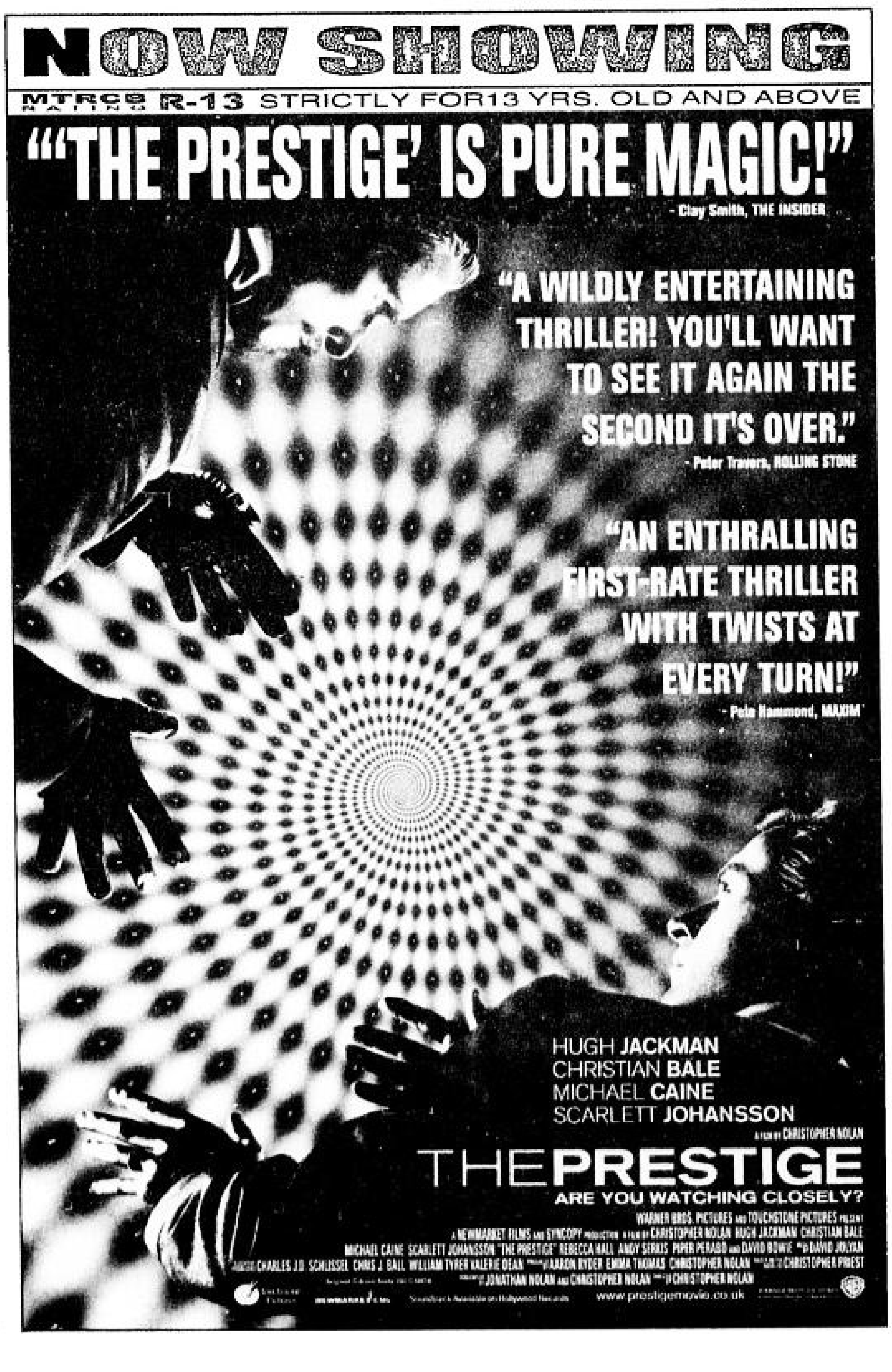
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LAUREN NOVERO
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MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

Ayala CINEMAS
KIRSTEN DUNST
AT 15, SHE BECAME A BRIDE
AT 19, SHE BECAME QUEEN
BY 20, SHE WAS... A LEGEND
MARIE ANTOINETTE
Written and Directed by SOFIA COPPOLA
OPENS NOVEMBER 1 exclusively AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)
COLUMBIA PICTURES
BIG BUDDHA RESTAURANT
glorietta
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MAJOR ITEMS	**QTY**	**# OF GROUP WINNERS**	**DRAW DATE**
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iPod Nano 4G	9	3	Nov 28
Canon Powershot A 430 Digital Camera	9	3	Dec 5
Sony Ericsson K910i 3G Cellphone	6	2	Dec 12
Sony Ericsson P990i 3G Cellphone	6	2	Dec 19
Canon Mini DV Camcorder (Elura 85)	6	2	Dec 26
IBM Thinkcenter A52-PC	6	2	Jan 2
Samsung LCD 32" wide screen TV	6	2	Jan 9
Samsung LCD 40" w/Home Theatre System	3	1	Jan 16
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₱1 Million	3	1	Jan 30

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Waiting in vain for Gina Pareño in Hawaii festival

...and why Kirsten Dunst felt lonely playing Marie Antoinette

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"WHERE IS GINA PAREÑO?"

We just got back from Honolulu, Hawaii where that question was asked by many who attended the just concluded Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF).

Poor lawyer Roger Rayala, co-executive of "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)," had to field the question "Where's Gina?" or "Where's the actress?" so many times after the well-attended screenings of the film. "Kubrador" was one of the five films competing in the feature film category.

It was a shame that Gina, who had won Best Actress at the 8th Osian-Cinefan Film Festival in New Delhi, India and who had been drawing raves from critics all over the world for her performance as an aging "jueteng kubrador," had a tough time renewing her US visa. By the time it was renewed, it was too late for her to make it to the awards show last Thursday evening.

Earlier, when we met Roger at the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel, he was still hoping that Gina would show up.

Around the globe

The "Kubrador" folks had to spread themselves around the globe to be able to grace almost all of the festivals that the film had been invited to. Director Jeffrey Jeturian was in Mumbai, India before joining producer Joji Alonso in Valladolid, Spain. Roger will next meet them in England, where the film is featured in the 50th London International Film Festival. From London, they will travel separately or together to more festivals. These folks are certainly racking up frequent flyer miles!

The HIFF tendered a reception last Monday evening for our press group, this year's recipient of the fest's Vision in Film Award. We met the festival's executive director, Chuck Boller, who told us how excited he was at the Filipino Focus section commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Filipino migration to Hawaii.

Aside from featuring the usual names—Auraeus Solito and Brillante "Dante" Mendoza—Filipino Focus also featured the works of Mike Sandejas, Stephanie Castillo and Emmie Tomimbang. The latter produced "Mabuhay with Aloha," billed as the official documentary of the centennial celebration of the Pinoy migration to these lovely islands. Lisa Alteri directed the video, which uses archival footage to narrate the rise of Filipinos from sugar plantation workers to becoming the third largest ethnic group in Hawaii.

Tantalizing description

How we wished we could stay longer in Honolulu—if only to watch all the offerings in a section named "Outside the (Manila) Envelope Shorts Program." The festival's program tantalizingly described the section this way:

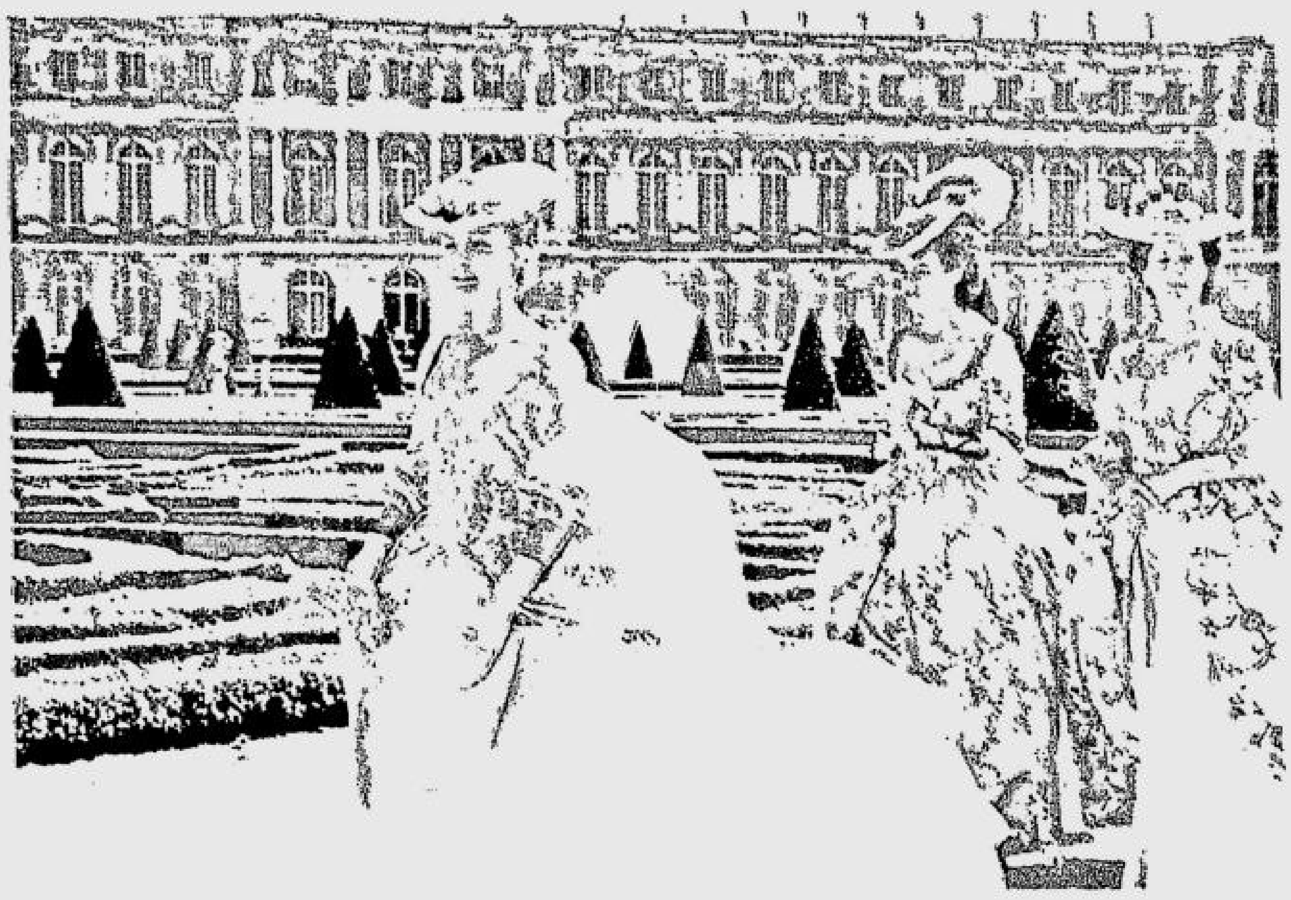
"The shorts in this program come mostly from the Cinemalaya Film Festival (that's Tagalog for 'indie cinema'). Go outside the (Manila) envelope, and meet a new generation of Filipino filmmakers, shooting digitally and independent of the studio system, telling stories of a modern Philippines.

"The documentary 'In Death, In Life' (Deanne Briones, 2005) contrasts, with great compassion, the death of a well-to-do woman against a shantytown widower trying to bury his wife. 'Light's Play' (Rianne Hill Soriano, 2005) is the fanciful story of a blind girl's dream, adapted from a storybook written by the director (Rianne). 'Sa Silaw' (Reinzi Balao, 2006) is an experimental narrative wherein a prostitute confronts her father's lust. 'Parang Pelikula' (Hubert Tibi, 2006) and 'Putot' (Jeck Cogama, 2005) are both touching bildungsromans. 'Mansyon' (Joel Ruiz, 2005) is a charming tale of a housekeeper, a gardener...and what happens when the owners leave on a vacation."

Fil-Am cinematographer

At the reception, we bumped into LA-based Fil-Am publicist David Magdael (his agency publicized "Maximo" in its US theatrical run), who helped in the festival's programming. Other *kababayan* notables in the HIFF include the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival's Abraham Ferrer and the University of Asia and the Pacific's

WAITING/ J2



KIRSTEN DUNST (left) in "Marie Antoinette"

ROBIN and Zsazsa

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

CARLO Aquino

Padilla & Padilla big winners at 3rd Golden Screen Awards

By Nini Valera

ROBIN PADILLA WON HIS THIRD BEST ACtor trophy for the comedy "La Visa Loca" on Thursday night at the 3rd Golden Screen Awards held at the Pagcor Grand Theater at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City.

The Golden Screen Awards is given out by the Entertainment Press Society or Enpress.

Padilla, 36, sporting an animé-inspired hairdo and dark glasses throughout the evening, dedicated his victory to producer Sharon Cuenta, who had invested in the movie directed by Mark Meily and produced by Unitel Pictures.

He was accompanied to the awards rites by his mother Eva Cariño, and was ecstatic as he received his trophy, grateful for the recognition by the entertainment media.

He was not nominated in the last Luna Awards of the Film Academy of the Philippines.

Rookie's victory

It was also a big night for Carlo Aquino, who won the Best Actor trophy for Drama for his role in the digital film "Sa Aking Pagkakagising sa Kamulatan," directed by Ato Bautista.

Aquino beat veteran actors Aga Muhlach, Ricky Davao, John Arcilla, Yul Servo and the iconic Eddie Garcia for the honor.

"My knees are still shaking," Aquino said backstage shortly after receiving his award." He said he didn't think he stood a chance."

Onstage, Aquino acknowledged Viva Films' big boss Vic Del Rosario. Aquino is a contract star of Viva.

Zsa Zsa Padilla won her fifth acting award for "Ako, Legal Wife." She again credited longtime companion Dolphy for her comic talent, which was showcased in the Tsinoy comedy.

Out of town

Ana Capri's Best Actress trophy for a dramatic role in the indie film "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre," directed by Bricio Santos, is the first local recognition for her work as an actress.

Capri earlier won as Best Actress in last year's Cinemanila festival for her role in "Ala Verde," produced by Muchachos Bravos Filmworks. In 1999, she also bagged the Cinemanila Best Actress trophy for "Pila Balde."

Unfortunately, Capri, who earlier confirmed her attendance, failed to show up. She was out of town, taping a show.

When told by cell phone that she had won, Capri cried and said she regretted not being able to accept the trophy herself, according to Ricky Calderon, Enpress vice president for the Golden Screen Awards.

Inspiration

Joel Lamangan was named Best Director for "Blue Moon," a multi-generational love story produced by Regal Entertainment.

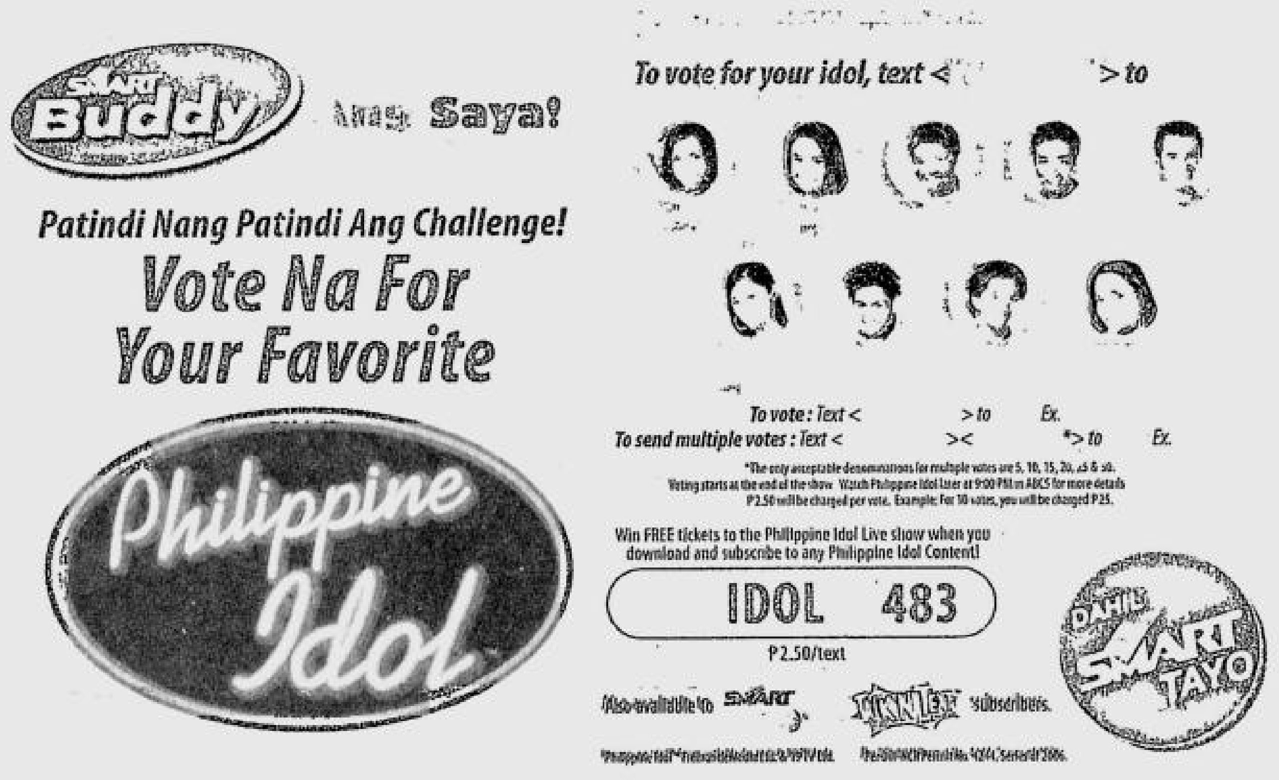
Lamangan said the award would serve as an inspiration for him to do better movies.

"Blue Moon" was also named Best Drama Picture and gave Boots Anson-Roa the Best Supporting Actress trophy.

Best Comedy Picture was "La Visa Loca."

"Ang Daang Patungong Kalimugtong," produced by Sampay Bakod Productions, bagged

PADILLA/ J2



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DAHIL SMART TAYO

Padilla & Padilla Enpress winners

From page J1

the Best Picture for an indie film.

The Best Supporting Actor trophy went to Soliman Cruz, for UFO Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros."

Where was he?

Ironically, the actor, who had arrived early, could not be located when his name was called.

"I was hungry, so I left for a bite to eat," he explained later backstage. "My cell phone battery went dead so I couldn't receive texts or calls. Anyway, I'm here, and I'm happy."

Sexy actress JC Parker, who received the award for Breakthrough Performance by an Actress for her role in Viva Films' "Ilusyon," said she did not expect to win. "I just wanted to be here," she said backstage.

Danilo Barrios, her live-in partner, did not escort her to the ceremonies. "He said I should come here with Yul (Servo), who is my leading man in the movie," Parker explained.

"Ilusyon" is currently being shown in Korea, after it was picked up for distribution at the recent Pusan Film market.

The movie was also given the Best Cinematography award for the work of Odyssey Flores.

More winners

Breakthrough Performance by an Actor award went to Angelo Ilagan, for "Sarung Bangi."

Mark Meily got the award for Best Original Screenplay for "La Visa Loca," while Dennis Marasigan, won the Best Screenplay Adaptation trophy for "Sa North Diversion Road."

Anil Rao got the Best Editing award for for "Ala Verde, Ala Pobre."

Best Production Design went to Joey Luna for "Blue Moon," and Best Sound to Bob Macabenta for "Ang Daang Patungong Kalimugtong." Best Musical Score went Von De Guzman for "Blue Moon."

"Ikaw Lamang," written by Ogie Alcasid, was named the Best Original Song. The song was the theme for "Dubai," and was interpreted by Gary Valenciano.

The multi-million peso epic "Exodus" bagged the Best Visual Effects trophy for Ignite Media.

Mario 'O Hara, who was a no-show, was the recipient of the Lino Brocka Lifetime Achievement Award. Presenters Gina Alajar and Phillip Salvador, both Brocka babies, received the award for 'O Hara.

The 3rd Golden Screen Awards night was aired over IBC-13 on Saturday night.

WINNERS CIRCLE. First row, from left: Angelo Ilagan, Robin Padilla, Carlo Aquino. Second row, from left, Soliman Cruz, Dennis Marasigan, Lily Monteverde, Mark Meily, Tony Gloria, Zsazsa Padilla, Joel Lamangan

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

ARA MINA in a dance number

Waiting in vain for Gina in Hawaii

From page J1

Alexis Tioseco, who served as jurors in the short film category and NETPAC Award, respectively.

"Paper Dolls" is a documentary directed by an Israeli, Tomer Heymann, but it is about four Filipino transvestites who take care of aged Orthodox Jewish men. On certain nights, however, they transform themselves into "The Paper Dolls" who perform in campy drag shows. This docu is making the rounds of the festival circuit.

And did you know that the cinematographer of such films as "Gothika," "Everything is Illuminated," "Phone Booth" and the upcoming "The Fountain" (a visual feast of a film) and "Iron Man," is a Fil-Am? Matthew Libatique received the 2006 Eastman Kodak Award for excellence in cinematography.

Our press group was honored for its philanthropic work. This was only the fourth time in the festival's 26-year history that the Vision in Film Award was given. Variety quoted Chuck Boller as saying, "Their vision goes beyond just the one-off grant to some filmmaker. They have broader goals, and I think they're very clever about who gets their money."

Early recipients include the American Film Institute, the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute and filmmakers Ang Lee and Zhang Yimou.

By the way, from our room's balcony at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, we saw a giant screen showing a movie right on the beach at sunset. It was part of a four-night event coordinated by HIFF. Watching a documentary like "Na Kamalei: Men of Hula" on the sand as the sun set—what could be more distinctively Hawaiian than that?

* * *

EARLIER in LA, we interviewed Kirsten Dunst, who stars in "Marie Antoinette," Sofia Coppola's take on the life of the French teenage queen. Using contemporary music, Francis Ford Coppola's talented daughter makes the period drama appealing to modern audiences. Sophia's cousin, Jason Schwartzman, plays Louis XVI in the film based on Antonia Fraser's enjoyable biography, "Marie Antoinette: The Journey."

Sofia, in a separate interview, defended her use of music by the likes of New Order, Aphex Twin, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Gang of Four and The Strokes to score the life of France's 18th century queen: "I always felt like it was a really delicate balance because I wanted to make the film contemporary in that a modern audience could relate to it. So my starting point was, I wanted to tell the story of Marie Antoinette from her point of view and what might it be like if you were her living in that time and in this teenage world where you had all this decadence offered to you, what it would feel like and the excitement of going to a masked ball for the first time. I thought of using music that made me feel excited as opposed to limiting myself just to the period music of that time."

Below are excerpts from our press con with Kirsten.

The pink motif, the clothes and parties and the small dogs all reminded us a little bit of Paris Hilton. Were you reminded of her, too?

Wow. All I can say about Paris Hilton is that I've seen her movie so I hope she comes and sees mine (laughter). That's the only correlation I have.

What effect did playing this role have on you?

I felt extremely lonely. She was a very introspective and vulnerable person to play. I couldn't judge her, hate her or think she was stupid. I had to love her because I'm playing this girl. I had to find the reasons why she did the things she did but it was hard to mix up the ages. One day, I'd play the older Marie and the next day, I'd play the younger version. So I had to map out where I am. It ended up being a very sensual movie for me because a lot of it is about like, that tastes good or that feels nice.

Why did you feel lonely? I assume that you were surrounded by people all the time.

Even when you're surrounded by people, you can still feel terribly lonely. That's what she was feeling and, in playing a role where you don't interact with people and they're at a distance, you feel lonely. The only person I really felt close to was Jason. So for me, those days were a little bit of a burden off my shoulders because his Louis was sharing the same feelings I think in a way with her. So when I was working with him, I felt a little more lighthearted.

Do you think they had a freer view on the body than we have today?

Every society, every country, every person sees it differently. I grew up pretty free because my father was from Germany. There was a sense of freedom in my home.

In the movie, you portrayed the growth of Marie Antoinette from a young, frivolous child. Did you experience any growth yourself after doing the movie?

I definitely experienced growth in my acting because I've never been as vulnerable in a movie before as this one. To me, it is even hard to talk about it in a way because it almost feels like it's my own little personal dream that shouldn't be talked about. I felt very independent living in Paris. I felt protected. I had my friends around me on the film. Jason and I spent a lot of time together but it gave me a sense of being alone. That was all right and I definitely felt a growth in the way I approached a role. I had never done a movie

WAITING/J3

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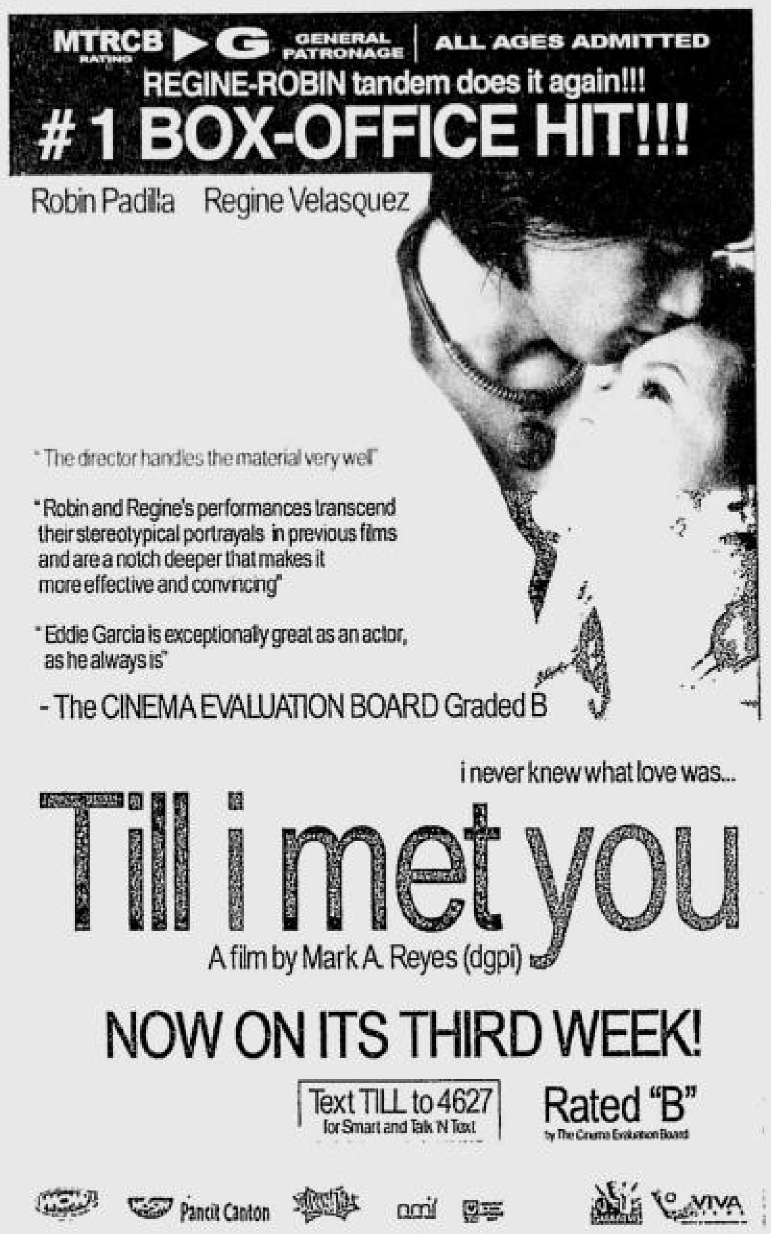
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Waiting in vain for Gina Pareño in Hawaii

From page J2

with so little dialogue. It was really left up to myself and that was scary but also, it was good for me.

Jason told us that you are so attractive and lovely that he had a hard time keeping his eyes away from you.

Oh yeah, right. Jason is sweet (laughing).

How did you feel about trying to get his attention?

Sometimes I'd crack up. When we were doing those bed scenes and everything, oh, I was laughing all the time because Jason is goofy. So I asked Sofia, if I can eat chocolate or something where it's my own little thing? Like trying to fill myself with cakes as an expression of a lack of sexuality. I used food in a big way because it was like trying to get something sensual out of the food that I am not getting in the bedroom (laughter). But yeah, it was hard not to laugh with Jason. He always brightens up life on the set and in life. I adore him.

How did Sofia guide you? What qualities do you think she saw in you?

I think Sofia cast me in this part because she knew I could portray this kind of woman. You will be sympathetic toward her in her partying and frivolity. But Sofia wouldn't really say anything to me. We have a mutual understanding of each other's aesthetic, perspective and sensibility. So there's not much that needs to be spoken. She never imposed any guidelines. She just let it happen as we go. I like working with that kind of freedom.

How long did it take for you to wear that wig?

I used my own hair. It took like two-and-a-half hours for me to get ready everyday. It was tiring.

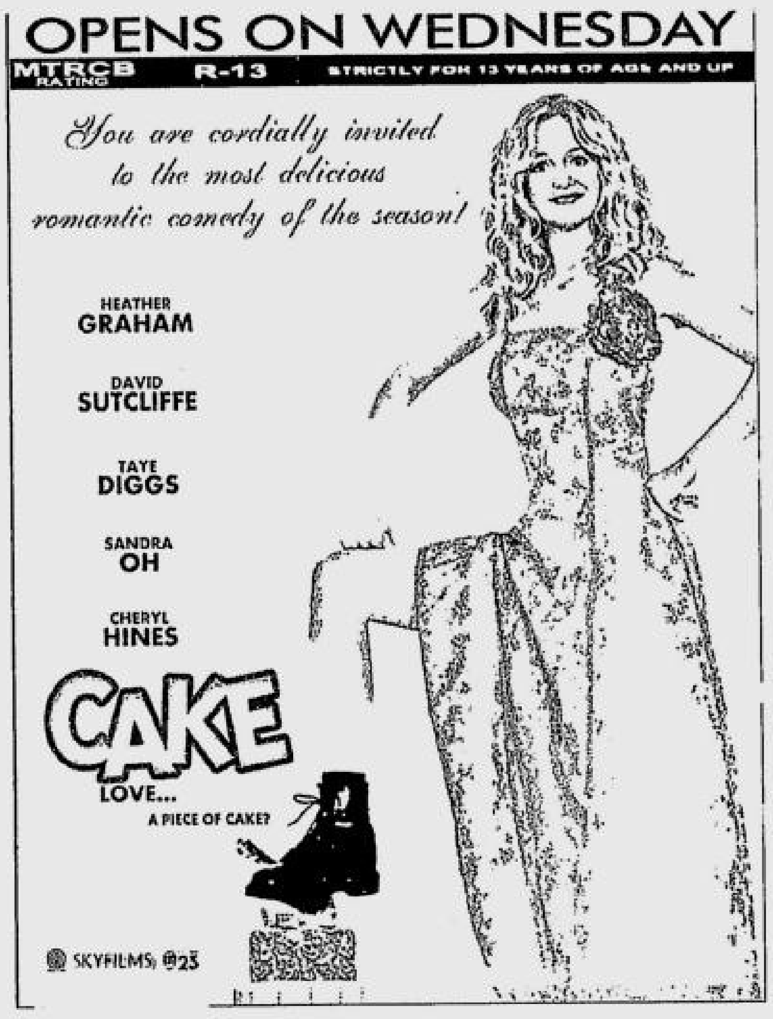
Please talk about "Spider-Man 3."

In the next "Spider-Man," we've all grown up a lot so it's much more dramatic. And there are the relationships— more complicated. My character is still an actress. Sam (Raimi, the director) likes to put us through it so there's a lot of drama and life lessons. It's going to be very "operatic."

And you have competition for Peter's heart?

Not competition. I mean, in the film, Peter's lying to Mary Jane about certain things and it hinders their relationship. But I was glad to have another girl (Bryce Dallas Howard) on the set. I was happy to share some of the burden of an all-male set with Bryce.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.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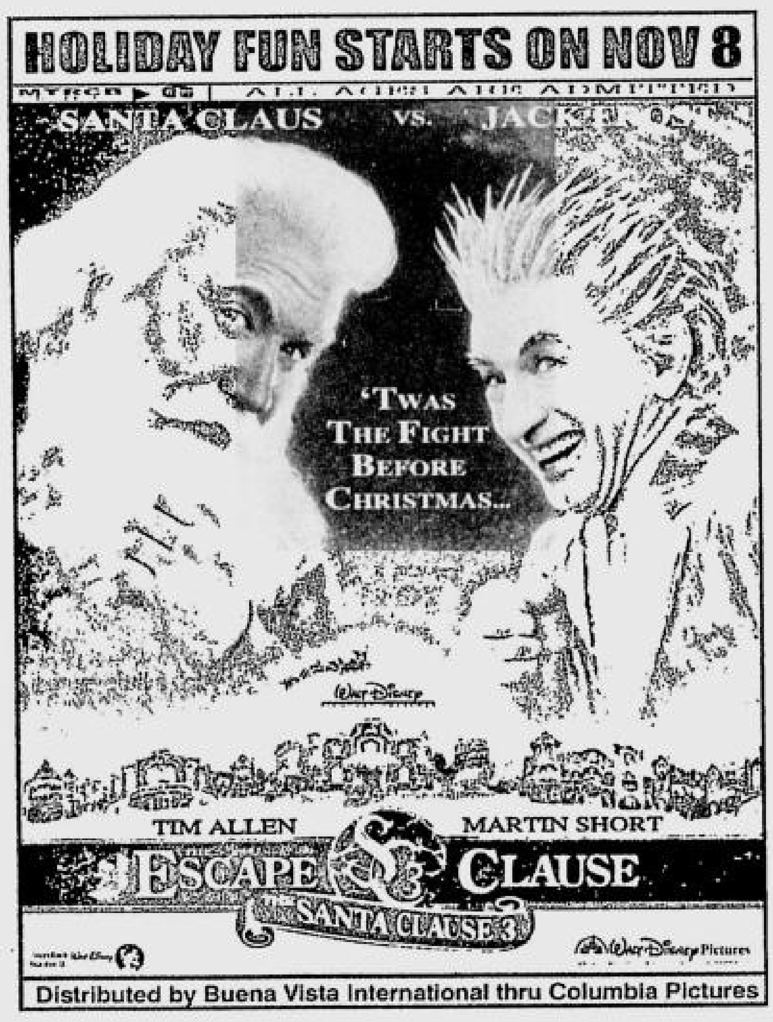
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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 TILL I MET YOU
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) OPEN SEASON
5 PULSE

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT

THEATRES

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 THE GRUDGE - 2
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BANQUET
9 FEAST
10 TXT

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
2 (DOLBY) FEAST
3 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE - 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON
5 FEAST

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 BARANG

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TXT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE - 2
4 TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
3 (DOLBY) THE PRESTIGE
4 (DOLBY) THE GRUDGE - 2

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (DOLBY) THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 PULSE
2 GAWIN SA DILIM
3 HUNGER FOR LOVE
4 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 HALIMUYAK
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON

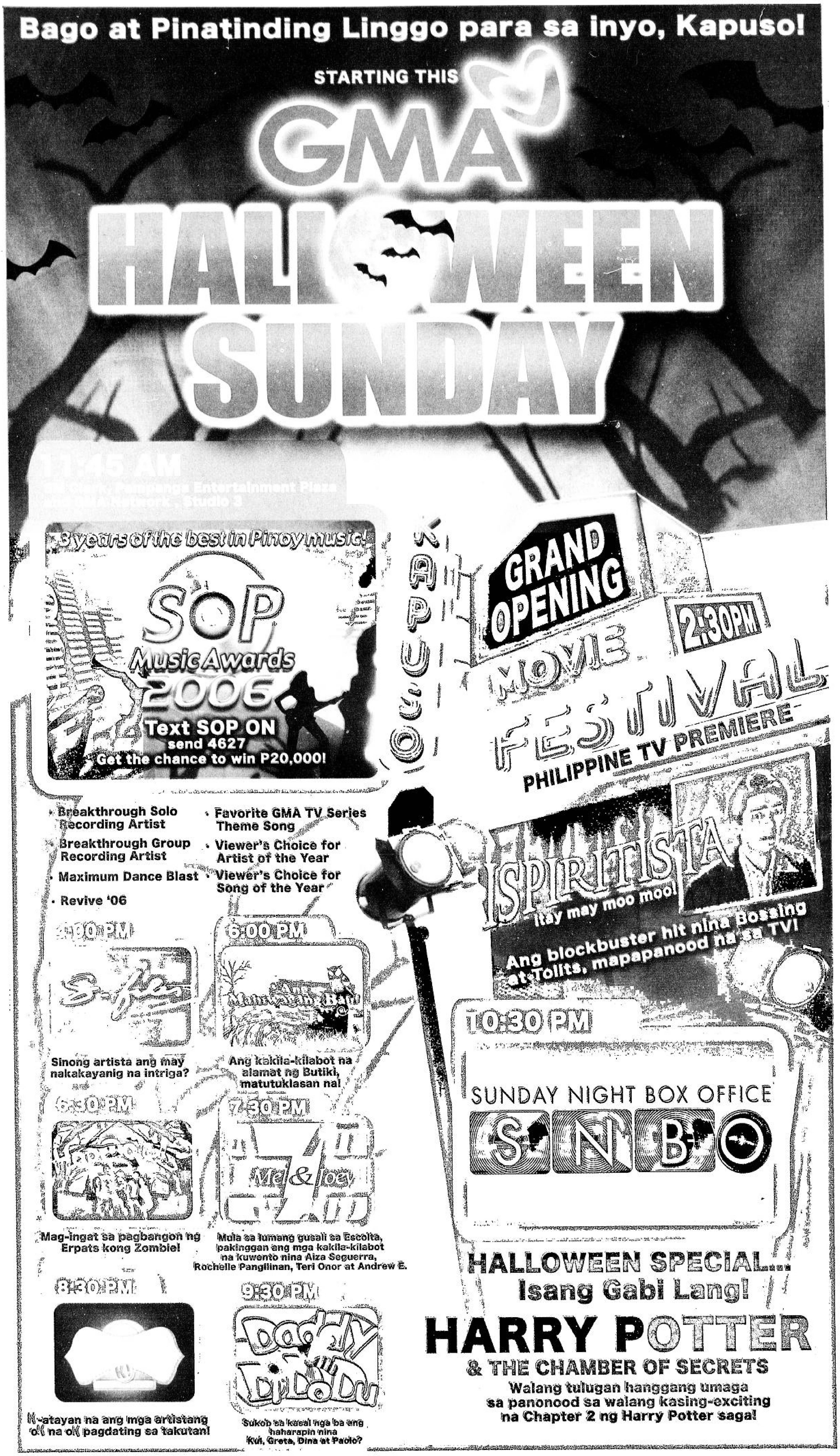
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 THE DEPARTED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



Bago at Pinatinding Linggo para sa inyo, Kapuso!

STARTING THIS

GMA HALLOWEEN SUNDAY

11:45 AM

@ Clark, Pampanga Entertainment Plaza
and GMA Network , Studio 3

3 years of the best in Pinoy music!

SOP Music Awards 2006

Text SOP ON
send 4627
Get the chance to win P20,000!

- Breakthrough Solo Recording Artist
- Breakthrough Group Recording Artist
- Maximum Dance Blast
- Revive '06
- Favorite GMA TV Series Theme Song
- Viewer's Choice for Artist of the Year
- Viewer's Choice for Song of the Year

KAPUSO

4:00 PM

S-files

Sinong artista ang may nakakayanig na intriga?

6:00 PM

Ang Mahiwagang Baul

Ang kakila-kilabot na alamat ng Butiki, matutuklasan na!

6:30 PM

Mag-ingat sa pagbangon ng Erpats kong Zombie!

7:30 PM

Me & Joey

Mula sa lumang gusali sa Escolta, pakinggan ang mga kakila-kilabot na kuwento nina Aiza Seguerra, Rochelle Pangilinan, Teri Onor at Andrew E.

8:30 PM

K-atayan na ang mga artistang oK na oK pagdating sa takutan!

9:30 PM

Daddy Di Do Du

Sukob sa kasal nga ba ang haharapin nina Kul, Greta, Dina at Paolo?

GRAND OPENING

2:30PM

MOVIE FESTIVAL

PHILIPPINE TV PREMIERE

ISPIRITISTA

Itay may moo moo!

Ang blockbuster hit nina Bossing at Tolits, mapapanood na sa TV!

10:30 PM

SUNDAY NIGHT BOX OFFICE

SNBO

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL...
Isang Gabi Lang!

HARRY POTTER
& THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Walang tulugan hanggang umaga
sa panonood sa walang kasing-exciting
na Chapter 2 ng Harry Potter saga!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday
NATIONAL

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Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Hearth

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 10-02-2006 PAV

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Branch Bids and Awards Committee (BBAC), is inviting janitorial service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service – Casino Filipino-Pavilion
Required Personnel : 149 janitors
Approximate Floor Area: (Total Floor Area: 23,012.22 sq. m.)
Casino Filipino – Pavilion : 9,349.43 sq. m.
Slot Machine Arcade - Ronquillo : 1,533.00 sq. m.
Slot Machine Arcade - Citystate : 629.36 sq. m.
NPDC : 8,881.00 sq. m.
Slot Machine VIP Club Pan Pacific : 1,800.00 sq. m.
Slot Machine VIP Club Ambassador : 819.54 sq. m.

Approved Budget : Forty Nine Million Seven Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five & 36/100 Pesos (Php 49,727,355.36)
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 25, 2006 – November 17, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 7, 2006 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	November 20, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bid	November 20, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

VENUE: 5th Floor, Executive Office Conference Room
Casino Filipino – Pavilion, Manila Pavilion Hotel
United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Three & 67/100 Pesos (Php 24,863.67)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat Unit, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office – Casino Filipino-Pavilion.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BBAC Secretariat, Casino Filipino - Pavilion

(Sgd) **ROBERTO S. VALMADRID**
Chairperson, BBAC Pavilion

(PDI – Oct 29 & Nov 5, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate suppliers/owners to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the acquisition of lot and building for NTC-13 (CARAGA) Region, Butuan City, to wit.

1) at least 1,000 sq.m. lot or more;
2) with one (1) storey building with at least 200 sq.m. floor area or more;
3) at lease 4 to 5 rooms or more ideal for office space;
4) with toilet;
5) with concrete perimeter fencing and gate;
6) with drainage system;
7) with provision of garage vehicle parking space;
8) accessible to the public;
9) at least 600-800 meters away from the City Hall and to the City proper;
10) along Upper Doongan Road, Butuan City

The approved budget for the contract is P5,000,000.00 and locally funded by the National Government Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **23 October 2006**, to be submitted not later than **7 November 2006, 5:00 P.M.** through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered suppliers shall be from **9-10 November 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

Pre-Bid Conference will be on **14 November 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **December 5, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** and **15 December** at **2:15 P.M., respectively.** Bidders shall submit five (5) separate sealed envelopes: one (1) envelope containing the eligibility requirements, two (2) envelopes containing the technical component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and two (2) envelopes containing the financial component of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **"Republic Act 9184"** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JAIME M. FORTES, JR.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – October 22 & 29, 2006)

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

INVITATION TO BID

"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"

Hydraulic Shear
Mechanical Shear
CNC Turret Punch
Press Brake
Mechanical Press Brake
Mechanical Press
Fin Press
Tube Expander
Tube Spin Cutter
Tube End Forming Machine
H-Pin Bender
Coil Bender
Tube Flaring Machine
Tube Straightener Machine
Spring Balancer
NC Lathe Machine
Lathe Machine
Iron Bull Worker
Horizontal Band Saw
Pipe and Bolt Threading
Key Way Broach Machine
Pre metal treatment facilities
Powder Paint Booth
Baking Oven
Powder Spray Gun
Gas Leak Test Facilities
R-22 Charging Machine
Running Test Room
Steam Boiler
Cooling Tower
Milling Machine
Shaper Machine
Spot weld Machine
Drill Press
Mig weld Machine
Arc Weld
Sheaving Machine
Bench Grinder
Surface Grinder
Roll Former
Air Dryer
Air Compressor
Standby Generator Set
Overhead Crane
Assembly Rails
Electric Hoist
Forklift Truck
Hand Pallet Truck
High Pressure Washer
Vacuum Pump
Foaming Machine
Insulation Clamping Jig
Plastic Sealer
Mechanical Vise
Including:
Sheet Metal Fabrication Tools, Electrical & Pneumatic Tools, Control Box Assy. Tools, Coil fabrication Tools, Common Tools, Personal Protective Equipment, Inspection & Measuring Equipment Test Equipment.

Interested buyers can inspect the units from November 2 to 11 (except Sunday) at Bo. San Augustin, San Fernando, Pampanga during office hours and submit Bid Offer including bid bond equal to 10% of the bid amount in cash or manager's check payable to Daikin Alen Air Conditioning, Inc. on or before Nov. 13, 2006

DAIKIN-ALEN AIR CONDITIONING, INC.
No. 41 Linaw St. Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City
For inquiries and to secure sale catalogue and bid documents, please contact the following

Pampanga Branch:	Fred Sarcada	(045) 963-19-80	
	Rodel Lugue	(045) 963-19-80	
Head Office: Quezon City	Alvin Urbano	(02) 712-21-44	

(PDI - Oct. 29, 2006)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A MARK TO MOVE THIS COUNTRY FORWARD.

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) is the primary agency that administers the intellectual property (IP) system in the country. Our vision is to "foster a creative and innovative Philippines that values, nurtures and uses intellectual property for national development". Through the granting of patents, registration of utility models, industrial designs and trademarks, administrative and adjudication of intellectual property rights (IPR) violations including copyrights, IP Philippines provides protection for artists, inventors, creators and entrepreneurs across all industries.

Our mission is to mobilize knowledge and technology to increase productivity and enhance competitiveness of Philippine industries, small and medium enterprises as well as cultural sectors, and to coordinate the work of government agencies and the private sector in promoting and protecting intellectual property rights.

Make Your Own Mark in Promoting National Development.

As part of its information and education campaign for IPR, IP Philippines is forming the Intellectual Property Training and Research Institute. IP Philippines is screening potential candidates who can act and serve as Deputy Director of the Institute. The Deputy Director will have the following functions:

- Assist in crafting the policies and plans of the Institute;
- Assist in establishing the faculty of lecturers and researchers for the Institute;
- Liaise with the domestic and international partners of the Institute;
- Manage the day-to-day operations of the Institute.

Qualifications:

A Bachelor's Degree in Law or PH. D in the Sciences/Engineering with a solid background in intellectual property, at least two (2) years supervisory or managerial experience, and the ability to grasp and appreciate the multi-disciplinary approach to IP development and management.

A strong commitment to the development of the IP system in the Philippines. Dynamic and results-oriented, and with a very strong work ethic. Excellent oral and written communication skills plus the ability to work with the local and international IP community.

Think you're marked for the position?
Then send your CV to eric.lanado@ipophil.gov.ph
by October 31, 2006.

IP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
PHILIPPINES

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
924-6601 to 25 Website: www.pcmc.gov.ph
email: hiss@pcmc.gov.ph

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPENING FOR FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

The **Philippine Children's Medical Center – Office of Professional Education and Training** announces its acceptance of applicants for the Fellowship Training Programs for the following subspecialties:

- Adolescent Medicine
- Ambulatory Pediatrics
- Pediatric Hermatology-Oncology
- Child Neurology
- Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics
- Child Psychiatry
- Neonatology
- Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
- Perinatology
- Pediatric Surgery
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- Pediatric Radiology
- Clinical and Anatomic Pathology

Requirements to be submitted:

- Applicantion letter addressed to Dr Julius A. Lecciones, Executive Director
- Curriculum vitae with (2) 2x2 picture (white background)
- Transcript of Record
- Diploma
- PRC Board Rating
- Certificate of completion of Pediatric Residency/General Surgery/OB-Gyne/Radiology
- Certificate of Passing Diplomate Exams
- Letter of recommendation from Chairman of the Department/Dean of College and 2 other persons

Please submit your requirements at the Office of Professional Education and Training. For more information, please call Ms. Jennifer C. Cornejo at 9246601 to 25 local 240.

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2006)

INQUIRER
JOB *Market*
EMPLOYMENT EXPO
November 20 to 22 at the Glorietta Activity Center

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), a government-owned and controlled corporation with office address at Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, invites all interested parties to participate in the re-bidding of the long-term lease of the property described below:

PROJECT	RIVERSIDE AREA National Government Center-Commonwealth Enterprise Zone (NGC-CEZ)
LOCATION	Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City
AREA	7,503 sq.m.
MINIMUM BID	Monthly lease rate of P57.00 per sq.m. per month subject to a minimum annual escalation of 5%
TERMS OF LEASE	Straight lease for 20 years subject to renewal for another 10 years upon agreement of the parties
OTHER CONDITIONS	Payment of six (6) months security deposit and six (6) months advance rental

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Issuance of bid documents and submission of eligibility requirements	Nov. 6 – 17, 2006
Pre-bid conference	Nov. 20, 2006
Deadline of submission and opening of eligibility documents (pass/fail criteria)	Nov. 23, 2006/10:00 am
Notification of eligible/ineligible bidders	Nov. 28, 2006
Start of submission of the Financial Bids/Proposals	Nov. 29, 2006
Deadline for submission and opening of Financial Bids/Proposals	Dec. 19, 2006/2:00 pm

The bidder is advised to inspect the subject property to determine its actual condition. Particulars of the bidding including the bid documents and eligibility requirements may be obtained from the HGC's Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group (PMAADG) at the 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00)** from **November 6 – 17, 2006.** For other inquiries relative to the bidding, please call Ms. Marichu A. Lazaro or Nemia C. Mabulay at tel. nos. 897-3286 or 897-3290.

THE HGC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS AND/OR TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) CORAZON G. CORPUZ
Chairperson
Asset Disposition Committee
Riverside Area, NGC-CEZ

(PDI - Oct. 22 & 29, 2006)

For your Classifieds and Obit Ads please call:
☎ **897-8425**

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Mobile Phone: (+63) 928 4102732

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Printing of Registration Forms for 2007

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P558,500.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the Printing of Registration Forms for 2007.*

LOT	PARTICULARS	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	4,400 pads of Year 2007 Registration and Licensing Forms	308,500.00
2	5,000 booklets on NFA Rules and Regulations on Grains Business	250,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Printing of Registration Forms for 2007.* Delivery period is 45 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 14, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugun Bldg. North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 28, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid security in the following form and amount.*

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 28, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person - *Jose D. Chua/Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. - *(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone - *(+63) 928 4102732*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website - *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel No (632) 455-2758 Mobile Phone: (+63) 928 4102732 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Purified Water at NFA Central Office for 2007

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P500,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of purified water at NFA Central Office from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the supply and delivery of purified water at NFA Central Office from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.* Period covered by this contract is from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 16, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on December 1, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid security in the following form and amount.*

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *December 1, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person - *Jose D. Chua/Violeta S. Villarama*
Address - *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. - *(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone - *(+63) 928 4102732*
e-mail address - *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website - *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

KAPIT-BISIG LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN – COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES (KALAHI-CIDSS)

(The flagship anti-poverty project of the Government of the Philippines implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), with funding support from the World Bank)

The KALAHI-CIDSS Project recently received a technical assistance grant from the Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) facility. The approved grant aims to:

1. Address project constraints by providing technical assistance to strengthen the overall sustainability of the project investments through capacity development in the areas of: (a) technical design and planning for sub-project; (b) economic analysis of sub-projects; and (c) organizational development for managing, operating and maintaining completed sub-projects;
2. Develop a systematic approach to learning and knowledge sharing, through the establishment of learning networks and popularization of the Project's CDD approaches, best practices and lessons learned.

Towards the above, the Project will engage the services of the following:

Rural Infrastructure Consultant

1. Review the existing guidelines on and processes for community-based infrastructure development, implementation and O&M to identify areas for enhancement of the technical preparation and management. Conduct field visits in project areas to validate the results of the review;
2. Revise the manual on community-based infrastructure development and implementation for use by Project staff. Among others, the manual shall focus on: (a) appropriate design alternatives and construction technology for specific project types (roads and bridges, water supply and other social infrastructure sub-projects) in various geographic and socio-cultural settings with balanced consideration on the community needs and capacities; (b) mitigating measures for any possible negative impact of the sub-projects; (c) appropriate operation and maintenance activities and strategies that are within the capacities of rural communities to implement;
3. Train a core group of national and regional project staff on the use of the use of the training manual;
4. Recommend appropriate link or integration of manual to the CEAC manual;
5. Work closely with other PHRD consultants in the areas of economic analysis and community development to ensure that recommended community-based infrastructure designs are within acceptable economic standards and appropriate social perspective;
6. Conduct consultation meetings with key Project staff during the course of engagement and provide the management with progress updates and feedback.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Licensed Civil Engineer with at least 10 years of solid experience in community-based rural infrastructure development (design, implementation, and O&M);
- Has extensive experience in preparing manuals for community-based, rural infrastructure and related reading materials such as operation and maintenance handbook or users' guide;
- Knowledgeable in appropriate technology, alternative community infrastructure designs and indigenous technology for rural infrastructure;
- Demonstrated capability to conduct social and environmental safeguards audit,
- Knowledgeable in processes for community-based and community-driven development projects.

DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT Sixty (60) person days spread over four (4) months.

Economic Analysis Consultant

1. Review the existing guidelines on and processes for economic analysis of sub-projects;
2. Develop simplified guidelines (to include processes and tools) for economic analysis of sub-projects that would be primarily used by community leaders. The manual could include a separate section on illustrative application of the guidelines for selected sub-project types;
3. Develop the design and manual for training of communities on the use of the simplified EA guidelines;
4. Train a core group of national and regional project staff on the use of the guidelines and training manual;
5. Recommend appropriate link or integration of guidelines to CEAC manual;
6. Work closely with other PHRD consultants in the areas of engineering and organizational development to ensure that the recommended EA approaches are applicable to various community infrastructure designs and has the appropriate social perspective;

Conduct consultation meetings with key Project staff during the course of engagement and provide the management with progress updates and feedback

QUALIFICATIONS

- Advanced university degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics or related field preferably with specialization in analysis of impacts of community-based rural infrastructure and development issues;
- At least seven (7) years experience in economic analysis of rural development issues (A PhD may substitute for 2 years of required experience).
- Has experience in preparing EA tools, templates and manuals and in conducting trainings on EA;
- Experience in gender and development as it relates to economic and empowerment issues is an advantage.
- Knowledgeable in processes for community-based and community-driven development projects

DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT Forty-five (45) person days spread over three (3) months.

Organizational Development and Management Consultant

1. Review Project documents, reports, and data relative to ODM frameworks, processes and activities;
2. Conduct field visits to selected project areas to generate lessons in organizational development and management from current practices in local operation and maintenance groups;
3. Produce an ODM sourcebook primarily for use of the ACTs;
4. The sourcebook should.
   Enhance the CEAC manual relative to organizational building with focus on tools, processes, and alternative technologies on community-based organizational building from diagnosis, development, operations, monitoring, and evaluation.
   The enhancement could also include illustrative cases on organizational building relevant to selected sub-project types (e.g. water, roads and bridges, buildings, community enterprise) as well as to specific geographical and socio-cultural conditions of the communities;
5. Provide inputs on the design of the ACT training to integrate the enhancements on organizational building as well as the use of the sourcebook;
6. Provide trainings to project staff on recommended ODM processes and strategies to ensure transfer of learning.
7. Work closely with other PHRD consultants in the areas of engineering and economic analysis to ensure that the recommended ODM approaches and strategies are consistent with rural infrastructure implementation processes, social development processes and perspectives, and contribute to ensuring economic viability of implemented sub-projects.
8. Conduct consultation meetings with key Project staff during the course of engagement and provide the management with progress updates and feedback

QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-graduate degree in community development, social work, sociology or other similar social science courses, with a specific focus on organizational development and management;
- At least seven (7) years of experience in the evaluation, design, and implementation of organizational development and management interventions for community groups;
- Has developed and/or published resource materials, manuals, and users' guides on ODM for use by rural communities and local government units;
- Knowledgeable in processes for community-based and community-driven development projects

DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT: The Consultant shall be engaged for a period of thirty (30) person-days spread over two (2) months

Community Development Consultant

1. Enhance existing manuals on (a) community-based evaluation, (b) social inclusion, (c) participatory situation analysis, (d) participatory development planning and resource allocation, and (e) community mobilization and volunteer development to integrate knowledge development and management;
2. Integrate and/or ensure consistency/coherence of aforementioned enhanced manuals with relevant sections of the manuals/documents that will be developed by other consultants,
3. Pre-test the developed products with a sample of the target audience and make the necessary improvements based on the pre-test results,
4. Provide inputs on the design of the ACT training to integrate the enhancements on the manuals;
5. Conduct consultation meetings with key Project staff during the course of engagement and provide the management with progress updates and feedback.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-graduate degree in community development, social work sociology or other similar social science courses;
- At least ten (10) years of solid experience in community development and development-oriented projects;
- Demonstrated capability to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate knowledge development processes; must have handled the formation of learning networks in community development interventions,
- Has developed and/or published resource materials and manuals on knowledge development and management for use by rural communities and local government units;
- Knowledgeable in social processes for community-based and community-driven development projects. familiar with key issues in empowerment, poverty alleviation and institutional reforms.

DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT: The Consultant shall be engaged for a period of one hundred twenty (120) person-days spread over twelve (12) months

Knowledge Product Development Consultant

1. Review Project documents, reports, and processes and conduct field visits to identify needs as well as opportunities for establishing community-based learning networks;
2. Based on the results of the above, formulate a manual on the overall framework and plan for the establishment of community-based learning networks to include strategies, activities, learning materials development; institutional arrangements (including the criteria and procedures for selection of local NGO partners); performance targets, and indicators for measuring success;
3. Coordinate the conduct of regional and sub-regional consultations on the acceptability and utility of the draft manual;
4. Finalize the manual on managing community-based learning networks based on the results of the consultations;
5. Train a core group of national and regional project staff on the use of the manual,
6. Conduct consultation meetings with key Project staff during the course of engagement and provide the management with progress updates and feedback,
7. Submit a post-engagement report (electronic and hard copies) that documents the activities of the consultant and identifies key issues and recommendations relevant to knowledge development and dissemination of learning

QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-graduate degree in development communication or other similar social science courses
- At least ten (10) years of solid experience in development communication and development-oriented projects;
- Demonstrated capability to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate knowledge development processes; must have handled the formation of learning networks in community development interventions;
- Has developed and/or published resource materials and manuals on knowledge development and management for use by rural communities and local government units;
- Knowledgeable on social processes for community-based and community-driven development projects; familiar with key issues in empowerment, poverty alleviation and institutional reforms.

DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT: The Consultant shall be engaged for a period of one hundred eighty (180) person-days spread over ten (10) months

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ABOVE POSITIONS:

1. Application letter briefly stating how you meet each of the qualification standards (maximum of 2 pages).
2. Latest CV;
3. One writing sample (original, maximum of 5 pages);
4. A list of references (with full contact details) from the last three previous employers.

Interested applicants must submit all of the above to: **Asst. Sec. Florita R. Villar, Chairperson Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)**, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, with telephone number 931-8101 loc 217; 951-71-16 (Fax) or by e-mail to : **bacsec@dswd.gov.ph; dswdbacsec@yahoo.com** on or before 10 November 2006.

(SGD) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

(PDI – October 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO RE-BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids in the rebidding of the requirement "Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of **One (1) Lot Cooling System for the Oriental Negros Convention Hall, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City" (ABC: 20,000,000.00).**

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax#: (035) 422-8895.

Bid forms will be made available right after the **Pre-Bid Conference** scheduled on **November 6, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City. **The submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **November 18, 2006**, at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI–Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2006)

Department of Social Welfare and Development

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PROCUREMENT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR CY 2007
[ITB No. GOP/06-DSWD-021]

1. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)*, through the General Administration and Support Services Group (GASSG) Funds intends to apply the sum of *Twenty-three Million Six Hundred Fifty-two Thousand Pesos (Php23,652,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Procurement of Security Services for CY 2007"** with ITB No. GOP/06-DSWD-021. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of security services for CY 2007. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *DSWD BAC Secretariat* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Four Thousand Pesos *(P4,000.00)* starting 18 October 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *DSWD* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *7 November 2006 at 10:00 p.m.* at the 2nd Floor Administrative Conference Room (Old Building).
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *10:00 AM on 20 November 2006.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash, or manager's check or cashier's check* and in the amount of *Two Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Pesos (Php236,520.00)* Combination of two (2) or more of any of the foregoing forms is not allowed. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on *20 November 2006* at *10:00 AM* at *the DSWD Central Office 2nd Floor, Old Building, Administrative Conference Room* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

THE BAC CHAIRPERSON
DSWD Bids and Awards Committee
c/o BAC Secretariat
2nd Floor, DSWD Old Building
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City
Telefax no.: 951-7116; Trunkline No.: 931-8101 Local 217

(Sgd.) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary for PPG & BAC Chairperson

(PDI – October 29 & November 5, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Municipality of Pavia

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : October 29, 2006
Contract No. SP-105-IN-01 & 02
World Bank Loan No: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Rehabilitation and Construction of School Buildings and Health Centers.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Pavia, Iloilo*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the
   Package 1: Construction and Improvement of 53 classrooms, 1 unit Library and 1 unit Home Economics Building; and
   Package 2: Construction of 5 new Barangay Health Centers and Upgrading of 4 existing Barangay Health Centers.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***October 30 - November 28, 2006 during office hours*** at the ***BAC Secretariat, Office of the Mayor, Pavia, Municipal Building, Pavia, Iloilo,*** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) for Package 1 and Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00) for Package 2*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security:
   Package 1: Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 350,000.00); and
   Package 2: One Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php 130,000.00)
   In a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and sealed envelops shall be delivered to ***Mr. Edwin C. Elumba, BAC Member, at the Farmers Information Technology Service Center (FITS), Municipality of Pavia, Province of Iloilo on or before November 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. **The Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject for:
   Package 1 - Fourteen Million One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Two Pesos and 84/100 (Php 14,139,602.84); and
   Package 2 - Five Million Two Hundred Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Three Pesos and 09/100 (Php5,269,773.09).
6. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***November 14, 2006, 10:00 AM at the Farmers Information Technology Service Center (FITS), Pavia, Iloilo.***

(Sgd.) HOMER G. HUBAG
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 29, 2006)

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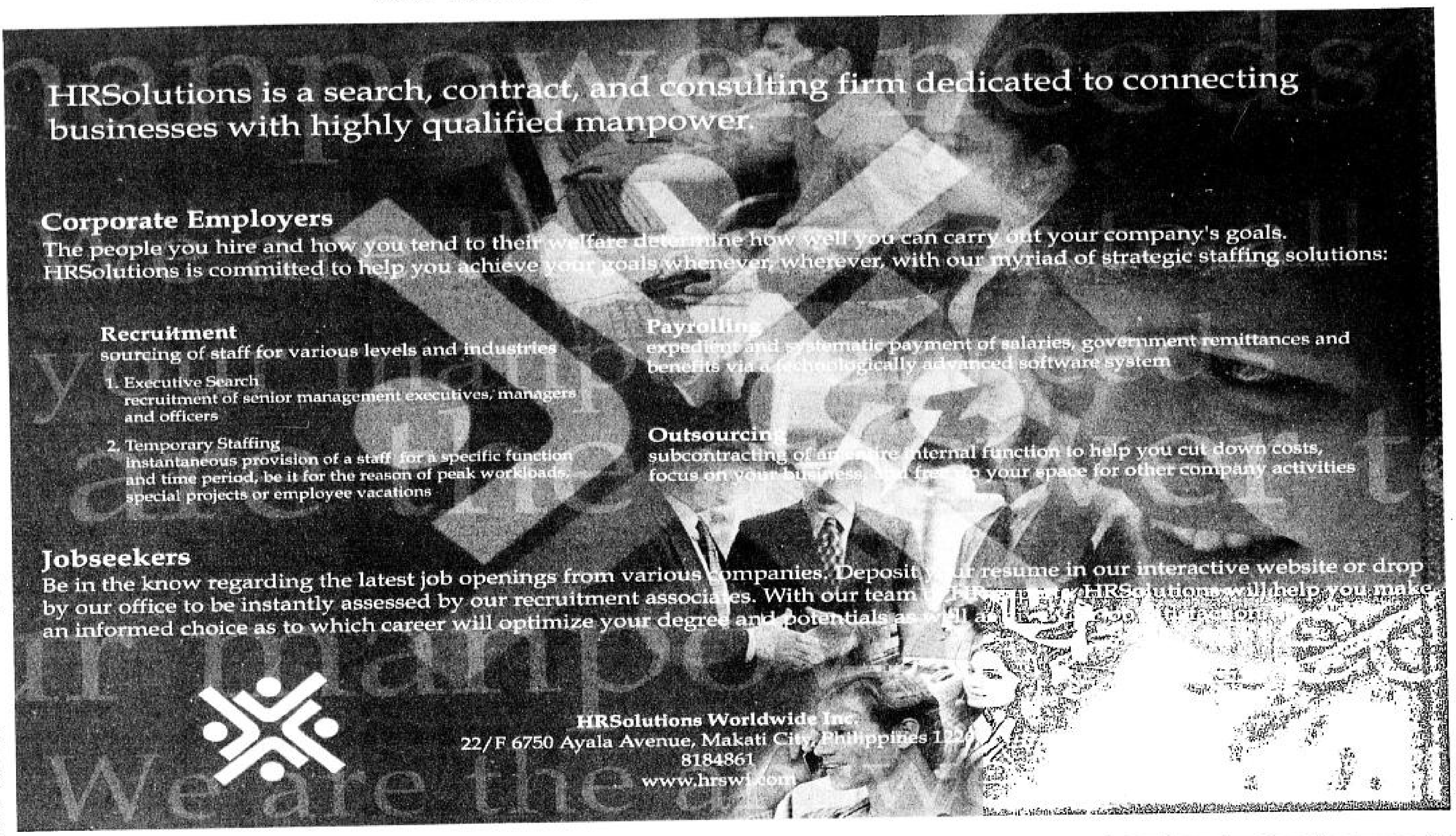

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Big house Ideal off/res/school $1,000/mo 45 Maalalahanin Teachers Vill QC 09064652750 / 4331334

Bung 12 Zinnia Rox Dist P9T 2BR garage 09178846343

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

2Bdrm 1T/B Twnhs Type 1997 Smith ST. Singalong Nr Quirino Ave 9T Per Mo. Tel 5639853 CP 09172463600

Brandyfrd1Ateneo09194696411

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE
1. OFFICE SPACES
   Legaspi / Salcedo Vill. Makati
2. STORE SPACES / WAREHOUSES
   Dasmariñas, Cavite
   Alabang, Zapote Rd.
   Las Piñas
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
   Bauan, Batangas

ALL RENTAL - NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel No. 892-2681 to 96
ARIEL / DING / REXIE

HOUSE

Rent 4 BR
Executive House
w/ Garage 3T&B
w/ maids quarters
6075 Palma Rockwell
Makati nr Ateneo
Graduate – Law School
Tel. 8706706

CONDO/TWNHSE

Columns AyalaMkt 2Br/2tb prkg UF P45T w/dues 8906331

FF 25K w/parking slot 1BR Prince Plaza II •813-8420•

FURN STUDIO TYPE UNIT @PROVIDENCE TOWER MALATE (NR LA SALLE & ST. SCHO. COLL OF ST. BENILDE) 5276031 LOC 306 or 5275476 LOLIT

Rent VV6 Condo 0921-4672648

Y THROW AWAY YOUR RENT Do it d Equity way RENT-DEN-OWN We deduct 100% of ur rental fr ur DP Rent/mo 7T up at d gateway of BLVD 2T PASAY EQUITY 8346841/42

APARTMENT

2BR 1TB NR SM FAIRVIEW NR 2 SCHOOL 7000/MO. ZABARTE SUBD 426-0312/0921-7206544

2BR 2TB CRISTOBAL ST. near ARAYAT CUBAO QC P9T/mo 705-1250

36-8Ave Cubao 4500 Studio

3BR w/TB nr Blum LRT 4334339

Proj 8 4BR 2TB P15T 09179688923

Studio Kamias 259-9564

2BR nr Labor Hsp P.Tuazon D.Tirona Proj4 T421-6693

23C 8th Ave nr Liberty Cub 2br w /prkg, screen & Tel 927-5727

FOR LEASE

3Bdrm CrPrk Refurbished P70,000 Incl Dues Le Metropole Salcedo Vill. 879-7796

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

Kamias Rd 3.6T Nice 4368050

STUDIO Type with Aircon up Campus Diliman QC Call 4352461 / 09155837814

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P2,531.00 for 25 yrs.
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Cash-Outlay - P3,043.00 (6 months)
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Single Attached P4,966 for 20 years
For Free Tripping
Adelfa - 0920-8020381
Precy - 0917-4865542

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala 1T Lady 8974697

P2T FEMALE front Ateneo /Miriam Katipunan Road 4343579 / 09189103991

MALE BEDSPACE IN A CONDO ORTIGAS CNTR 0920-9232484

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400m² Bonifacio 09063433655

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

50m² ORTIGAS 0917-8454534

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HOUSE & LOT

MAGALLANES VILL. 09209126709

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

MKT. CONDOS 09209126709

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'05 Dec Innova J Red Gas 7T mileage 680T Neg M/T 0921-4708899

'93 Honda ESi Blk 0917-7951583

CARS

'03 BMW318I M Sport 1st Own Casa Maintned P1.4M Contact: Susan CP# 0921-6783746 •0917-8043344•0917-8511464

2001 HONDA CIVIC 1.6L A/T P420K Neg. 1st OWNER 7194142

BNEW NISSAN SENTRA 20T DP X-TRAIL 40T DP URVAN 50T DP P-UP 50T DP09172587749

CANADIAN EMBASSY
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TOYOTA HIACE
CARGO VAN 1999
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Impeccable maintenance
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sheila.marie@international.gc.ca
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REVO 1.8 GOOD AS NEW 9259575

CARS

CRV 02 RED 30K MILEAGE 650K FIRST OWNER 09178913131

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr Ali Mall finance Trde-in consignment 439-1117 OR 0917-8342020 Pajero Trooper Lite-TownAce Delica Friendy Largo Estima Safari Surf Fargo RVR MU Terrano Odyssey Suzuki Elf Canter 4-6W etc slot rental

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

CARS FOR RENT

★Cheap Van 9330311★

WANTED TO BUY

BUY USED CARS SPOT CASH Call 7140912 ; 09196755681

KOTSE MO BILI KO T-8990215

WE BUY CARS / SUV / AUV! High Appraissal! Call 4353225/09209601866

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966830/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

Painting /R. Isidro '77 Mural 4x4m Abstract 350T neg 4266310

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

PETS

French Poddle F 09194696411

Pug 5mos F 0917-8873031 Shiua M 4mos/Poodle M 3mos

•PUGS • SHARPEI ! 3725231

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PCCI
367th & 368th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOG SHOW
Tiendesitas en Fontera Verde
Ortigas, Pasig City
November 11 & 12, 2006
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MS. CAROLINE BUTLER (AUS)
MR. LYNN BUTLER (AUS)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
SPONSORS:
NATURAL PET CORP PHIL
PRO PLAN DOG FOOD
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"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
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SWISS WATCHES
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE 5280747 STUDY NOW PAY LATER 09177924104 / 09228148322

CLEAN LOANS REG. EMPLOYEES WELL KNOWN STABLE COS. 09172424333

Notice is hereby given that Stock Cert. #2049 of Professional Services Inc. issued to MOISES ROMEO Q. FAJARDO was declared lost. If found please return to Corporate Office, Medical City Hospital, Pasig City. (PDI-Oct. 15, 22&29, 2006)

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction
NOVEMBER 6, 2006
All unredeemed articles from June 1-30, 2006
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO G. NATERA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#192 Page#42 Book#XIII Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Luis Marcos P. Laurel of Makati City. (PDI-Oct. 15, 22, 29, 2006)

URGENT HIRING

A Growing Fast Food Chain is in need of the following personnel for the following areas: QC, Manila, Bicutan, Las Piñas, Pasay, Batangas, Laguna, and Pampanga

(10) STORE SUPERVISOR
F, 33 y/o or below. Grad of BS HRM or any related course With related work experience
- Very good in Leadership and Interpersonal Skills

(5) INVENTORY CLERK
- F, 30 y/o or below, 5'2 ht. Grad of BS HRM or any related course
- With 0-6 months related work experience

(20) CASHIER / COUNTER CREW
- F, 30 y/o or below, 5'2 ht., Grad of BS HRM or any related course
- With at least 1 yr related work experience

(20) KITCHEN HELPER or COOK
- M, 28 y/o or below, 5.5 ht.
- With at least 1 yr related work experience

Interested applicants may apply at:
HR DEPARTMENT
Suite 408 CSP Bldg. #815 Quezon Ave., QC
(in front of Pegasus)
Look for Ms. Norie or Ms. Juvs
Tel. No. 413-5583 / 374-7945

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GIL E. MARTINEZ who died last May 23, 2006 has been extrajudicially settled w/ waiver of share by his heirs before notary public Renato Damasing of Las Pinas City per Doc No. 416, Page No. 085, Book No. II. Series of 2006
(PDI- Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALFREDO O. CARILLO was extrajudicially adjudicated between his heirs before Notary Public Atty. Daniel Rafael Penuela of Bacolod City, per Doc#61 Page#13 Book#XII Series of 2006.
(PDI-Oct. 29 & Nov. 5 & 12, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MABINI D. CLADIO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as Per Doc # 6, Page # 3, Book XX Series of 2006 of Notary Public, Sinforosa G. Gomez of Makati City (PDI Oct. 29,Nov. 5&12, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO T. GONZALES and JUANA C. GONZALES has been extradudicially settled among their heirs Before Notary Public ROGELIO AGOOT as Doc No.198 Page No.42 Book No. XVIII Series 2006 (PDI- Oct. 15,22 &29 06)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that SMIC Stock Cert.#501 issued to MARIA LOURDES D. MALEON was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 15, 22, 29, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Centro Escolar University Stock Certificate No. 540 covering 48 shares of stocks and Stock Certificate No. 5437 covering 157 shares that were left to Robustiano Maximino Sison by Juan Martin Sison were lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Ayala Alabang Country Club Stock Certificate No. A-409 issued to HONESTO C. GENERAL Was Reported Lost.
If no contest received New Certificate will be issued.
PDI- Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, & 12,2006

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A NON-SECTARIAN PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF LEARNING IS SEEKING FOR A JOINT VENTURE PARTNER. INTERESTED PARTIES MAY SEND EMAIL TO delm1970 @hotmail.com

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW consign ideal 4 bazar tiange btque 09178830002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

RESTAURANT FOR SALE 09178567835 09215944682

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCOUNTING CLERK
At least 22-28 yrs old BS Commerce, BA Grad. maj. in Acctg w/ or w/o exp. Apply at Maximum Security & Srvc Corp. 2/F Suite 202, Unified Bldg. 6 Denver St, Cubao, QC Lk for Mrs. Marina C. Pante

Bookeeper•DJ/Elec•Tech•Mech /Driver 0917-8511185

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT
CPA License
Good written/oral communication skills Knowledge in Microsoft Office Applications **Fax: 7592293** Email: serpenair@globelines.com.ph

Dep.Ed Pasig City & San Juan. Sta. Lucia HS, SECSP3-30024-1998, Sagad HS, SSPII, SECSP2 - 30029 - 1998, San Juan Nat'l HS, SSPI. 30008-2004.

F DENTIST PART / FULLTIME CALL DR. VANGIE 533-4595

Hiring:M/F CAD Designer BS Arch, 23-24y/o, can prepare complete working drawings for Interior/Exterior Arch, Hardworking,Trustworthy, willing to do Fieldworks Call/Txt Chermaine@ 0906-2418752 , or 723-6332 Ofc @ Wack-Wack Rd Mandaluyong City

LICENSED MED TECH Westlife Lab 4263848

WANTED: DRIVER Call on Monday 687-3807•687-7311

WANTED
Receptionist / HairDresser
Pls. Call 890-71-77

CE ESTIMATOR-M URGENT, CALL 6438927/txt 09173312287

WANTED DENTIST 933-1413

CAREGIVER 302-6842

MED COORDINATOR 5280730

Send your resumé instantly.
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www.jobmarketonline.com

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM* now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects/undertakings:

Proj. No.	Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget	License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB
1.	Trans-06-RCBN-EG-35/ Rehabilitation of Naga Substation	Naga, Camarines Sur	60 calendar days	Php 1,633,355.89	Internal Cash Generation (ICG)	At least - D & C, General Building At least - Small B, Building and Industrial Plant
2.	Trans-06-IWSS&EWT-EG-36/ Installation of Water Supply System and Elevated Water Tank at Tayabas Substation	Mateuna, Tayabas, Quezon	90 calendar days	Php 2,449,310.36	Internal Cash Generation (ICG)	At least - D & C General Building At least - Small B, Water Treatment Plant and System

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00*** for each project. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidders should have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials and supervision necessary for the ***construction/rehabilitation of all types of building, i.e. housing, schools, hospitals, markets, multi-storey buildings, airport terminals & other related structures (Project I) construction of elevated steel water tank with a minimum capacity of 15,000 gallons,(Project 2).*** The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis.

The schedule of activities for the above projects undertakings are listed as follows:

Activities	*Date and Time*	*Venue*
1. Issuance of Eligibility Guidelines	Oct. 30- to Nov. 13, 2006 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. (for Project 1 & 2)	Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
2. Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Documents	November 14, 2006 9:30 A.M. - Proj. 1 1:30 P.M. - Proj. 2	Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
3. Eligibility Screening	November 14, 2006 9:30 A.M. - Proj. 1 1:30 P.M. - Proj. 2	OAVP Conference Room B
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 21-21, 2006 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. (for Project 1 & 2)	Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
5. Pre-Bid Conference	November 23, 2006 9:30 A.M. - Proj. 1 1:30 P.M. - Proj. 2	OAVP Conference Room B
6. Deadline for Submission of Bid Documents	December 07, 2006 9:30 A.M. - Proj. 1 1:30 P.M. - Proj. 2	Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
7. Opening of Bids	December 07, 2006 9:30 A.M. - Proj. 1 1:30 P.M. - Proj. 2	OAVP Conference Room B

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php 1,000.00*** for each project.

All Bids must be accomplished by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-45-76 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN G. CASTUERA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

AKLAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (AKELCO)
Lezo, Aklan

Qualifications:

- 30-50 Years Old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Aklan

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 15 November 2006

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator
(PDI – Oct. 29 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

BUKIDNON II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BUSECO)
Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

Qualifications:

- 30-50 Years Old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 15 November 2006.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator
(PDI - Oct. 29 & 30, 2006)

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that **JESUS G. BELGRADO** had resigned from **Höegh Fleet Services Philippines, Inc.** effective October 07, 2006.

Any transaction entered into by the aforesaid employee on behalf of the Company shall not be honored.

(This Ad is in compliance with POEA requirement.)
(PDI–Oct. 29, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

1997 Mitsubishi Lancer GLXI/UME-490
2001 Toyota Corolla 1.3 / XAW-894
1999 Kia Panoramic Van / WKD-975

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño. Tel.# **878-54-57**
(PDI-Oct. 28 & 29, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **Mr. Richard Almeda**, who resides at **IRAYANG, SOLONG MINABALAC, CAMARINES SUR** and whose picture is posted below is charged with Estafa at RTC 5th Judicial Region Branch 28, Naga City, under Criminal Case No. RTC 05-0263.

Any information regarding the whereabouts of this person. Kindly inform Miss Lyn at this number 0917-8664622 or Miss Jing at 7144554.
(PDI - Oct. 29, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **Mr. Ronald Tan**, who resides at **BLK 10 LOT 33 VILLA KARANGAHAN SUBD. CALAUAG NAGA CITY** , and whose picture is posted below is charged with Estafa at RTC 5th Judicial Region Branch 19, Naga City, under Criminal Case No. RTC 2006-0011.

Any information regarding the whereabouts of this person. Kindly inform Miss Lyn at this number 0917-8664622 or Miss Jing at 7144554.
(PDI - Oct. 29, 2006)

NOTICE OF PROCUREMENT

AIR QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

USAID Energy and Clean Air Project

PA Consulting is planning to implement Air Quality Monitoring Program in Davao City and is seeking expressions of interest from qualified firms with capabilities to implement the following tasks.

- Implement an air quality monitoring program (AQMP) in Davao City with the End-result of establishing PM10/PM2.2 levels in a strategic area.
- Ascertain the multi-elemental composition and Black Carbon concentration of the air particulate samples and conduct a source apportionment study using the data collected from the AQMP, and,
- Enhance local institutional capability in air quality management by improving skills for PM10/2.2 monitoring, analysis, and utilization of results for local policy development and advocacy.

Selection of firms will be conducted by an open competitive tender process for shortlisted firms who demonstrate capabilities and experience in the aforementioned tasks.

Interested firms are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) which should contain a statement of qualifications on or before November 3, 2006. The EOI may be submitted by hard copy, FAX, or e-mail.

Contact

Renato T. Galang
ECAP Contracts Administrator

Contact Numbers:

Address: Unit 2606, 26th Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
F. Ortigas Jr. Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No: (632) 914-1106 to 09
Fax No: (632) 914-1105
Email Address: ecap@ecap.com.ph

(PDI – Oct. 29, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **Ms. Rochelle "Maggie" Reyes,** whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Quantum Recruitment Dynamics, Inc. effective October 07, 2006. This is in compliance with POEA rules and regulations, specifically Section 12 (Revocation or Amendment of Appointment of Representatives).

(PDI--Oct. 29, 2006)

PUREFOODS HORMEL
The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.

NEEDS

TRUCKERS

To handle its heavy sales volume this Christmas Season. The units will be dispatched from Purefoods-Hormel's Marikina Plant and Cavite Plant for deliveries to Greater Manila Area (GMA) and Luzon Provincial Areas (LPA).

Other Relevant Information:

Truck Type : AUV's/Trucks (1.0-4.0 tons capacity)
Body Type : Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period : October 01, 2006 to December 31, 2006

For particulars, please call or visit:

MR. ERNESTO S. GAÑA

At the following address and telephone numbers:

THE PUREFOODS-HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55
Local 253, 257, 258, and 340
Fax number 645-4535 and 646-9556
Cellular No. 0917-8050116

Name of the Procuring Entity

Project Reference Number
Name of the Project
Location of the Project

Department of Tourism

Project Reference No. 313922
Bottom Glass Boat
Department of Tourism
Rawis Legazpi City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Department of Tourism, Region V, Rawis, Legazpi City,* through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Glass Bottom Boats
Location	Department of Tourism, Rawis, Legazpi City
Brief Description	Two (2) Units Bottom Glass Boat
Approved Budget For the Contract	Php3,000,000.00
Contract Duration	60 day/s
Delivery Period	10 day/s

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 23, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	October 26, 2006 at 10:00 AM
3. Submission of Bids	On or before Nov. 7, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	November 7, 2006 at 10:00 AM
5. Bid Evaluation	November 7, 2006
6. Post-qualification	November 8, 2006
7. Notice of Award	November 10, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 5,000.00 to the Department of Tourism, Region V, Legazpi City Cashier.

The Department of Tourism, Region V, Legazpi City assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) RESURRECCION R. OIRA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Isabela
Municipality of Luna

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : October 29, 2006
Contract ID No. SP-071-IN-03
World Bank Loan No: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of Spurdikes on Gabion Mattress.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Luna, Isabela*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the Construction of ***Construction of Spurdikes on Gabion Mattress (package 3).***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***October 30, 2006 at BAC Secretariat, Office of the Mayor, Luna, Isabela*** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Three Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php 330,000.00*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***BAC Secretariat, Office of the Mayor, Luna Isabela on or before 10:00 A.M. on December 5, 2006*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The ***Estimated Cost*** for the subproject is ***Php 13,366,000.00.***
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at ***10:00 A.M. on November 21, 2006, at the Office of the Mayor, Luna, Isabela***

(Sgd.) **Engr. AURELIO U. BATTAD**
BAC Chairman

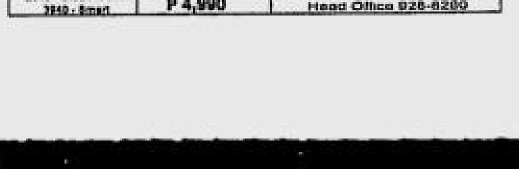
(PDI - Oct. 29, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MAMERTO G. VELASCO, WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS ABOVE IS ACCUSED FOR VIOLATION OF B.P. 22. Crim. Case No. 342523, MTC Br. 67, Makati City.

For any information on his whereabouts, please call tel. 843-05-71 to 75.

(PDI-Oct. 29, 2006)



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Junction 240-2404
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Makati 888-4169
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Marikina 933-6006
Novaliches 418-6060
Ortigas 717-1087
Recto 493-6502
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• ANNOUNCEMENT •

"The following members of the Philippine Mortuary Association and those Mortuaries mentioned below wish to inform the public that effective immediately or upon expiration of their contracts, that we will no longer be servicing any funeral plans from St. Peter Life Plans Inc.

To ensure that you, the funeral plan holder, receive the level of quality service that you planned for and deserve, the same quality casket which you planned for and deserve, and the level of quality of facility which you planned for and deserve, please be sure to contact your local mortuary of choice.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact any of the undersigned for further information or the PMA Secretariat-Cebu at (032) 231-7542."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto affixed our signatures this October 25, 2006 at Cebu City, Philippines.

Name of firm:	Address	Owner/Manager	Signature
Angel Funeral Homes	274 F. Torres St. D.C	Angel Brillantes Jr.	
Angel Funeral Homes	Calinaw, D.C	Alfredo Brillantes	
Angel Funeral Homes	Toril, D.C	Nida Laroza	
Angel Funeral Homes	Digos, D.C	Danny Robles	
Angel Funeral Homes	Bansalan, D.C	Lyn-lyn Laroza	
Angel Funeral Homes	Tagum City	Gabriel Robles	
Angel Funeral Homes	Pantukan, D.C	Nonoy Laroza	
Angel Funeral Homes	Mati, Davao Orr.	Bimbo Laroza	
Angel Funeral Homes	Compostela Cumbal	Angel Brillantes	
Angel Funeral Homes	Monteresiste	Angel Brillantes	
Angel Funeral Homes	Monkayo	Ali Brillantes	
Angel Funeral Homes	Sta. Josepa, Agusan	Ali Brillantes	
Angel Funeral Homes	Malaybalay, Bukidnon	Jimmy Laroza	
Angel Funeral Homes	Torente, Agusan Del Sur	Dodoy Barce	
Angel Funeral Homes	Montevita Comval Provice	Agnes Brillantes	
Angel Funeral Homes	Lupon Davao Oriental	Edgardo Brillantes	
Arapoc Funeral Homes	Molave, Zambo Del Sur	Stephen Arapoc	
Balugo Funeral Services	Libagon, Southern Leyte	Joel Balugo	
Balugo Funeral Services	San Juan, Southern Leyte	Ruben A. Balugo	
Bohol Funeral Homes	Talibon, Bohol	Felipe Dela M. Torre	
Carmen Funeral Home	Lilo-an, Leyte	Clemente R. Sabanal	
Cebu Rolling Hills	Mandaue City	Bing Valencia	
Celerian Funeral Homes	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lermo Celerian	
Clarin Funeral Homes	Clarin, Bohol	Luz Gomez Vito	
Collado Funeral Homes	Tacurong City	Elmer De Vera	
Corre Funeral Homes	Zamboanga Del Sur	Edgar Corre	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Junquera, Cebu City	Renato Dychangco	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Lahug, Cebu City	Catheleen Dychangco-Anzani	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Mandaue City	Danilo Libria	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Lapu-lapu City	Aerwyn Granada	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Argao, Cebu	Bartolome Campaner	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Danao City, Cebu	Alfredo Oropesa	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Carcar, Cebu	Silverio Cantina Sr.	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Lilo-an, Cebu	Elvis Pontilar	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Bogo, Cebu	Wen Boo Dimagnaong	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Camus, Davao City	Rony Ng	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Agdao, Davao City	Jack Pacaldo	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Cagayan De Oro City	Thomas Ray Soronda	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Iligan Branch	Micheal Enad	
Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes	Valencia Branch	Alberto Embornas	
Dela Cruz Mem. Chapel	Baybay, Leyte	Soledad Dela Cruz	
Divine Word Funeral Home	Tanjay City, Negros Or.	Elsa Lozano	
D'manc Memorial Homes	Dipolog City	Amado Denoyo	
Elena C. Mansueto Funeral Homes	Iligan City	Elena Mansueto	
Eterna Funeral Chapels	Bayawan City	Edgar Teves Jr.	
Raniel Memorial Chapel	Butuan City	Delfino Daniel	
Raniel Memorial Chapel	Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte	Delfino Daniel	
Kairiz Funeral Services	Cainta Rizal	Mary Jane Landicho	
Kairiz FuneralL Services	Morong, Rizal	Mary Jane Landicho	
Eterna Funeral Chapels	Dumaguete City	Teresita Teves	
Funeral Descallar	Zamboanga Del Norte	Dexter Descallar	
Funeraria Fatima	Pagadian City	Hernan Solas	
Funeraria L. Nalagon	Bacolod City	Leo Nalagon	
Funeraria Somo	Potatan, Iloilo	Evelyn Somo Malabed	
Funeraria Somo	Maasin, Iloilo	Evelyn Somo Malabed	
Funeraria Somo	Sara, Iloilo	Evelyn Somo Malabed	
Funeraria Somo	Alubigid, Mis. Oriental	Evelyn Somo Malabed	
Funeraria Villarin	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	Bernard De Guzman	
Funeraria Villarin	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	Vicente De Guzman	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Vitali Zambonga City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Curuan Zambonga City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	R.T Lim Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Ipil Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Kabasian Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Imilda Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Alicia Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Balangas Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Buug Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Bayog Zambonga Sibugay	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Pagadian City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Tangub City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Ozamis City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Oroquita City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Dapitan City	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Lanao Del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Calamba Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Rizal Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Manukan Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Roxas Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Sindangan Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Liloy Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Labason Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Piñan Zamboanga del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Tubod Lanao Del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gamalinda Funeral Homes	Anaranding Lanao Del Norte	Antonio Gamalinda	
Gomez Funeral Homes	Pangi, Siquijor	Virgilia Gomez	
Gomez Funeral Homes, Inc.	Tacloban City	Romerico Diaz	
Gomez Funeral Homes, Inc.	Catbologan City	Romerico Diaz	
Hilongos Funeral Homes	Hilongos, Leyte	Lorenzo Lamberte	
Holy Name Fun. Homes	Loon, Bohol	Dioscora Gomez	
Inabanga Funeral Homes	Cogon, Bohol	Jocelyn Lovina-Unajan	
La Merced Mem. Homes	Zamboanga City	Ramon Enriquez	
Holy Shroud Mem. Services	Antipolo, Rizal	Ariel Sanchez	
Alisbo Memorial Chapels	Lacson cor. Burgos St., Bacolod City	Jose C. Medel	
Alisbo Memorial Chapels	Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City	Jose C. Medel	
Lumbo Funeral Homes	Zamboanga Del Norte	Cornelio Lumbo	
Maharlika Funeral Homes	Zamboanga Del Sur	Leo Sobrevega	
Metro Funeral Home	Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay	Oscar Uba	
Nilo Funeral Services	Luna, Surigao City	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	Magpayang, Mainit Surigao Del Norte	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	Dapa, Surigao Del Norte	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	Patin-ay, Agusan Del Sur	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	San Francisco, Agusan Del Sur	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	Manganoy Bislig, Surigao Del Sur	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	Placer, Surigao Nel Norte	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Nilo Funeral Services	Claver, Surigao Del Norte	Leonilo A. Aldonza	
Our Lady of Lourdes Funeral Homes	Dapitan City	Lourdes Salimbagat	
Our Lady of Lourdes Funeral Homes	Sibugay, Zamboanga	Eva L. Ebol	
Remedios Funeral Homes	Zamboanga City	Fedelino Baro	
Rivera Funeral Homes	Ozamis City	Philip Rivera	
Rivera Funeral Homes	Misamis Occidental	Lilia Rivera	
Rivera Funeral Homes	Oroquieta City	Gregorio Boy Rivera	
Rolling Hills Memorial Chapels	Bacolod City	Bing Valencia	
Rosello Funeral Homes	Southern Leyte	Romeo Rosello	
Rufino Gomez Jr.	Loon, Bohol	Rufino B. Gomez Jr.	
San Fernando Funeral	San Fernando, Cebu	Richard Buscaino	
Somo Memorial Chapel	Cagayan de Oro	Evelyn Somo Malabed	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Cebu City	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Catmon, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Carmen, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Lapu-lapu City	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Lilo-an, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Negros Orriental	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Negros Occidental	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Bulacao, Cebu City	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Naga, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Carcar, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Toledo, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
St. Francis Mem. Homes	Balamban, Cebu	Zigfred Diaz	
Solas Funeral Homes	R.T. Lim, Zamboanga	Marilou Sola Ebo	
Talibun Funeral Services	Poblacion Tilbon Bohol	Juanita V. Heyrana	
Tupas Memorial Services	Carcar, Cebu	Eleazar E. Tupas Jr.	
Villa Isabela Fun. Homes	Basilan City	Armando Villa	
Villa Funeral Homes	Davao City	Edgardo R. Alolod	
Villa Funeral Homes	Zamboanga City	Gloria Villa	
Villa Babas Fun. Home	Ipil, Sibugay, Zamboanga	Reyner Villa Babas	
Villa Babas Fun. Home	R.T Lim, Sibugay, Zamboanga	Reyner Villa Babas	
Villa Babas Fun. Home	Kabasalan, Zamboanga Del Norte	Reynaldo Villa Babas	
Villa Babas Fun. Home	Imelda, Zamboanga Del Norte	Reynaldo Villa Babas	
Villa Babas Fun. Home	Liloy, Zamboanga Del Norte	Rixon Villa Babas	
Villa Babas Fun. Home	Labason, Zamboanga Del Norte	Rixon Villa Babas	
Villarin Funeral Homes	Dipolog City	Antonio Villarin	
V. Rama Funeral Homes	Ormoc City, Leyte	Vincent L. Rama	
Zuasola Funeral Homes	San Pablo, Laguna	Francis Zuasola	
Funeraria Quiogue	Pasig	Charlie Quiogue	
Funeraria Quiogue	Pateros	Charlie Quiogue	
Bollozos Funeral Home	Butuan City	Guy Dennis M. Bolozos	
Bollozos Funeral Home	Bayugan, Agusan del Sur	Mandy M. Bollozos	

We, the members of the Philippine Mortuary Association, have caused the publication through paid ad in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the above manifesto:

That the said manifesto expresses the personal and voluntary view of the Philippine Mortuary Association and its signatories and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the management and editorial staff of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, therefore any person or entity that might be affected or aggrieved by the paid ad is the sole responsibility of the association and its signatories.

(PDI - Oct. 29, 2006)

Remembering Our Beloved...

Dra. Engracia V. Lagman

(1924 – 1992)

Schedule of Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on her 14th Death Anniversary at the following churches:

OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH
Malate Catholic Church, Malate, Manila
7:00 AM, 30 October 2006

CATHEDRAL SHRINE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Regalado Avenue, Fairview Park, Quezon City
6:00 AM, 30 October 2006

CHRIST THE KING PARISH
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City
6:00 AM, 30 October 2006

IMMACULATE CONCEPCION PARISH
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila
7:00 AM, 30 October 2006

MARY THE QUEEN PARISH
West Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
7:00 AM, 30 October 2006

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
San Fernando, Pampanga
7:00 AM, 30 October 2006

MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila
7:30 AM, 30 October 2006

MONASTERIO DE STA.CLARA
C-5, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City
6:00 AM, 30 October 2006

MOUNT CARMEL SHRINE
New Manila, Quezon City
7:00 AM, 30 October 2006

NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
Kanlaon corner Retiro Streets, Quezon City
7:30 AM, 30 October 2006

NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY
Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City
7:15 AM, 30 October 2006

OUR LADY OF SORROWS PARISH
Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
6:00 AM, 30 October 2006

PARISH OF THE HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY
West Triangle, Quezon City
6:30 AM, 30 October 2006

SAN AGUSTIN PARISH
San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga
6:30 AM, 30 October 2006

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City
6:15 AM, 30 October 2006

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
6:15 AM, 30 October 2006

SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City
6:30 AM, 30 October 2006

STA. PERPETUA PARISH
D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City
6:00 AM, 30 October 2006

STA.RITA DE CASCIA PARISH
Philam Homes, Quezon City
6:30 AM, 30 October 2006

PARISH OF STA RITA DE CASCIA
Sta.Rita, Pampanga
5:30 AM 30 October 2006

In Loving Memory
on the 9th DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

ASUNCION "SONING" HOJAS ESCANO

of Cagayan de Oro City

(BELOVED WIFE OF THE LATE ROQUE "TETE" VANO ESCANO AND FOUNDRESS & FIRST CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD RIA HOJAS ESCANO FOUNDATION, INC.)

Who died in the grace of our Lord last October 29, 1997

Holy masses will be offered today, Sunday, October 29, 2006 on the following:

GREENHILLS MEMORIAL PARK, BULUA	4:00 PM
SAN VICENTE PARISH, CUGMAN	6:00 AM
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR, GUSA	6:00 AM
JESUS NAZARENO PARISH, RECTO AVENUE	5:30 PM
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, CAMAMAN-AN	6:00 AM
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL, CARMEN	6:00 AM
ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL	5:30 PM
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA, NAZARETH	6:00 AM
STO. NIÑO PARISH, COGON	6:00 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, BULUA	6:00 AM
CARMELITE MONASTERY, CAMAMAN-AN	6:00 AM
CARMELITE MONASTERY, BUKIDNON	6:00 AM

The RIA (ROQUE, ISIDRO & ASUNCION) Hojas Escano Foundation Inc. Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff, Grandson FRANZ JOSEF, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember ASUNCION in their prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

MARIA LOURDES MARQUETA PACHECO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 26, 2006 at the age of 67.

Her bereaved husband **EDUARDO PACHECO**; children **MARIA TERESA ASPILLERA-CUNNING, TED & LYNETTE ASPILLERA** and **EMILIO PACHECO**; and grandchildren **JIMMY, KYLE, TITAN** and **TITEN**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco of Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. at the Loyola Crematory, Guadalupe, Makati City.

DEATH NOTICE

JENNIE GORDON
Vda. de AREOPAGITA

Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 27, 2006
at the age of 94.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be announced later.

LA FUNERARIA CATALINA
Division of Paz Memorial Services Inc.
(Since 1969)

We, also known as **PAZ LIFE**, are pleased to announce that our funeral service division has been in operation since October 1, 2006 at 1501 CM Recto cor. T. Mapua, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Please bear with us while renovation work is in progress and we continue to provide funeral services to the community.

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740-45-80
741-19-98
741-3702
734-6667

HECTOR O. DEL ROSARIO
President
PAZ MEMORIAL SERVICES INC.

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People, Events & Products

Tigtigan Terakan goes to SM City Clark

IT'S A MARDI GRAS WEEKEND AT SM City Clark as it celebrates Tigtigan Terakan, Angeles City's much awaited annual street party Oct. 27 to 29.

Tigtigan Terakan, which means music and dancing in the Kapampangan dialect, is the culmination of the Baguis Fiestang Kuliat, Angeles City's month-long festival, which celebrates two of its major October feast days. These include Fiestang Naval, which honors Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, and Fiestang Apu, which honors Apung Mamacalulu, the Lord of the Holy Sepulchre.

The first Tigtigan Terakan celebration was done after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991, and has since symbolized Pampanga's resilient spirit, allowing it to rise above the tragedy.

This year, the Angeles City government makes it more exciting with lots of new activities for the three days at SM City Clark. These include fun activities like henna/tattoo face painting, beauty care and freedom wall areas as well as challenges such as rock climbing, basketball shootouts, a videoke challenge, and bartending competitions.

There will also be cultural presentations, rave parties, and performances by the hottest OPM bands like Brownman Revival, Rocksteddy, The Dawn, Itchyworms, Sugarfree, 6 Cycle Mind, Sandwich, and Imago.

A spectacular fireworks display will cap each of Tigtigan Terakan's three nights.

Greenwich holds 'Pizza 2007 Taste Drive'

PROUD OF ITS LATEST PIZZA LINE, Greenwich recently held the Greenwich "Pizza 2007 Taste Drive", an exclusive sampling activity for celebrities and friends from the media held at the SM Mall of Asia.

Hosted by TV personality Juddha Paolo, the highly successful affair was graced by radio's funny tandem Chico and Delamar, TV personality Niña Dolino. Other friends from ABS-CBN, GMA 7, Studio 23, Solar Entertainment, ETC, RPN 9, Jam 88.3, NU Rock, Mellow Touch and a lot more experienced the thrill of Greenwich Pizza 2007 as guests swore by the deliciousness of Greenwich pizzas and have discovered the many scrumptious treats that Greenwich is so known for.

"We're very pleased at the success of our 'Pizza 2007 Taste Drive' event, which has allowed more and more Filipinos to experience as to how really delicious Greenwich pizzas are," says Greenwich marketing manager for products Lulu de Castro.

One of the highlights of the event was the texting game, wherein three lucky guests got to take home Greenwich gift certificates.

A day after the media launch, the "Taste Drive" event then culminated in over 200 Greenwich stores nationwide, which was deluged by throngs of pizza lovers. Various Greenwich branches nationwide were visited by consumers to sample the wide variety of delectable Greenwich Pizza 2007, which enjoy a huge following among consumers owing to their exceptional taste.

True enough, customers enjoyed the pizza sampling activity, which was viewed as a great gesture by pizza lovers. What's more, the sampling activity reinforces the fact that Greenwich offers the best-tasting pizzas, thanks to its specially baked crust and delectable toppings.

Enjoy your favorite yummy Greenwich pizza by visiting your nearest Greenwich outlet or dial 819-4000 and Greenwich's Siguradong On Time delivery service will make sure that your orders are delivered fresh and on the dot. Provincial residents, on the other hand, simply have to dial the Greenwich delivery hotline in their respective area.

The future of inkjet cartridge refills

MORE AND MORE COMPUTER users are now beginning to appreciate the economical advantage of using printer ink refills.

With the great need for printed documents and images, sensible consumers have embarked on .a more economical approach. High-grade printer ink refills are now capable of producing quality printouts comparable to those produced using brand new printer ink cartridges. And Inke is at the forefront of the digital printing revolution.

Unlike other brands that manually transfer the ink to the cartridge using a syringe, with Inke, a handy portable inkjet auto refill equipment will do the trick.

"The gadget is very handy. It's smaller than a coffeemaker," explains Philip Huang, president of E-novation Digimer Corp, representative of Inke in the Philippines.

Instead of a manual syringe, the printer cartridge is placed inside a compartment in the gadget. A button is pressed, which immediately transfers the ink to the printer cartridge. Once it is finished the cartridge.can be removed from the compartment and loaded into the printer.

"It's very easy and fast. The whole refilling process is completed in three minutes," remarked Huang. The equipment can refill nearly all types of print cartridges like Lexmark, Hewlett-Packard, Canon, Dell, Compaq and many more."

"If you have Inke, all you need are a few companies that you can supply on a regular basis, and you are stable, because the demand is non-stop," he said.

Interested parties who wish to start their Inke print refill business at home can get in touch with an Inke franchise advisor at 723-8666 or 723-4653.

Pascual launches 60th anniversary product

IN THE CONTINUING CELEBRATION OF its 60th anniversary, Pascual Laboratories is launching its own brand of ofloxacin (Itex), a widely tested and clinically proven antibacterial agent.

Years of extensive clinical experience have demonstrated ofloxacin's efficacy in eradicating a wide range of microorganisms which cause upper and lower respiratory tract infections, urinary, and reproductive tract infections.

Several studies have proven ofloxacin's efficacy over other antibiotics. A study comparing ofloxacin and ciprofloxacin, another antibacterial agent, showed that ofloxacin is more active in urethral Chlamydia infections, and pulmonary infections.

Aside from the drug's efficacy, Pascual's brand of ofloxacin is more affordable compared to other ofloxacin brands. This economical pricing encourages full-dose compliance among patients, lessening the chances of antibiotic resistance and increasing the rate of successful therapeutic outcomes.

The introduction of a new ofloxacin is part of Pascual Laboratories' commitment to relentlessly pursue quality, innovation and excellence for the service of Filipino patients. Over the years, its product lines have rapidly expanded and evolved from medicines for the treatment of tuberculosis and vitamin deficiency, to more than100 products with 300 presentations in various therapeutic classes. Ofloxacin (Itex) is the newest member of the company's long line of medicines which carries the Pascual Laboratories tradition of quality, innovation and excellence.

Ofloxacin is a prescription product. Patients are advised to seek a doctor's prescription before using the drug.

PASCUAL managers celebrate during the company's 60th anniversary.

Uncover beauty from within

50 ml.
Tretinoin
Airol 0.05%
Lotion

AIROL .05% LOTION, AN ever-reliable brand of tretinoin (the first ever introduced in the market), is specially formulated for acne. Airol works by enhancing a process called "desquamation." In medical parlance, it simply means promoting the affected skin to open up its pores, push out trapped sebum (an oily substance), residing bacteria that populate the affected skin, pus and other residues that form and cause acne. Airol cleanses these out from the skin surface layer and from within. During this process, the initial result may be irritation, exfoliation of the skin, and even acne breakout in the early start-up application.

Users of Airol should not be bothered because this is how the product really works. As the skin debris oozes out, the drug works further by going deep down the skin pore, killing the remaining bacteria- causing acne, thus preventing it from recurring. As it empties out, it then slowly helps the skin recover by bringing out newly formed younger looking, smooth, pinkish, glowing, and rosy skin.

Skin irritation may occur such as redness, peeling or scaling and mild to moderate burning sensation in the applied areas. Visible improvements will be seen in 1 to 2 weeks. However, product application should be continued for at least 6 to 14 weeks (3 to 4 months) to ensure full recovery and avoidance of possible acne recurrence. While under application, it is advised to avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight especially at high altitude between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To protect from possible skin damage and irritation, it is important to apply sunblock cream to the face. However, if symptoms still persist, discontinue using the product and consult a certified dermatologist.

Airol .05% is marketed by PL Asia Pacific Philippines and is distributed locally by Zuellig Pharma Corp. It is available in Mercury Drug outlets nationwide and other leading drugstore chains.

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Inbound / Outbound Customer Care Representatives - Bilingual
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Center, #46 Don Mariano
Marcos Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796
Ayala Ave., cor
Salcedo St. Legaspi
Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St.,
Arcenas Estate
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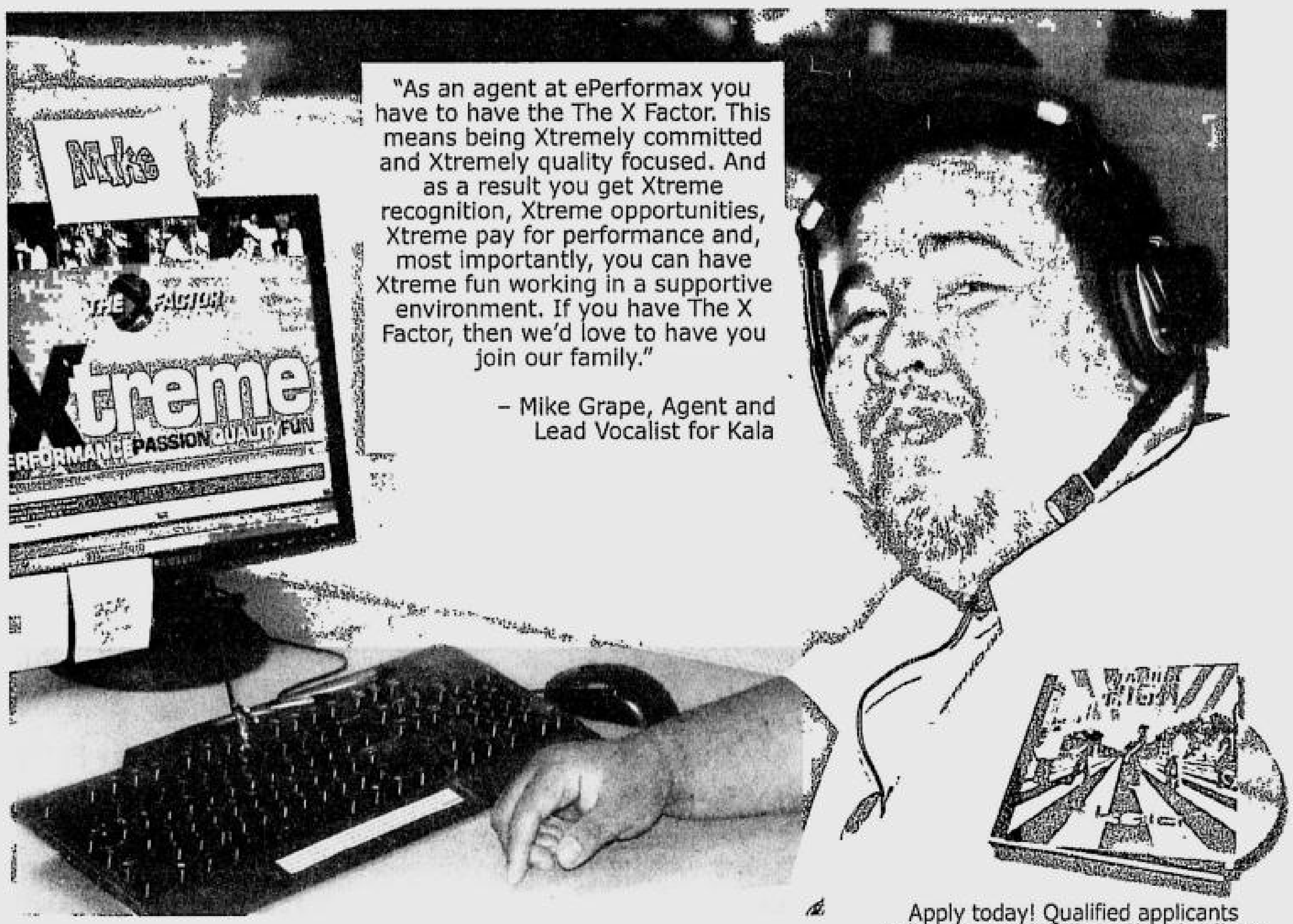

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For the above position, applicants should possess high proficiency in PC-based applications, effective communication skills in spoken and written English with excellent interpersonal skills.

The position carry competitive remuneration package and benefits associated with the industry in addition to excellent career opportunities.

Please send your CV on or before **November 08, 2006** to the address below. Your CV should include a covering letter, quoting above reference number, full details of your career development to-date, including relevant training taken and a recent passport-sized photograph.

Office of the Area Manager
Qatar Airways
2nd Floor, F & M Lopez Bldg. II
109 Carlos Palanca St., Legaspi Village
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Busser	(Ref: FBAO129)
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Hotel

Housekeeping Attendant	(Ref: HSEK322)
Pool & Gym Attendant	(Ref: HAPA330)
Spa Receptionist	(Ref: HSPA336)
Linen Room Attendant	(Ref: HSEK324)
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- At least 21-28 years old
- Has a background of BFAD transaction specifically on Regulatory 1 & 2

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- Business course / Commerce graduates
- At least three (3) to five (5) years experience as Branch Officer
- For Branch Managers, with lending experience
- For Branch Accountants:
    - With at least three (3) years Branch Operations or Audit experience
    - Preferably a CPA

SALES OFFICERS (SO-10-06) / MARKETING OFFICERS (MO-10-06)

(For Private Banking, Treasury Marketing - Binondo Business Center and Branches)

- With at least three (3) to five (5) years banking experience in sales and marketing, preferably with deposit portfolio
- With proven track record in account acquisition and maintenance
- For Private Banking, should have knowledge of investments
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo branches and Private Banking
- With excellent communication & presentation skills
- Not more than 35 years old

REMITTANCE OFFICERS (RO-10-06)

- Male
- At least three (3) to five (5) years experience in banking-related services particularly remittance or money transfer
- Thorough knowledge of the remittance transaction flow specifically in the various front-end and back-end channels in the areas of marketing and operations
- Amiable personality that will complement his other marketing skills in maintaining cordial relationship with people from all economic levels especially OFWs
- Must be willing to go on foreign assignment

BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING OFFICERS (BPO-Systems-10-06) / METHODS OFFICERS (MO-Systems-10-06)

- Industrial Engineering or Accounting graduates
- Preferably a CPA, if Accounting graduate
- With experience in process improvements in banking through work simplification or automation
- For Business Process Re-engineering Officers, with at least three (3) years experience in project management, standards setting
- For Methods Officers:
    - At least three (3) years experience in process analysis, policy formulation and documentation of banking operations
    - Must have skills in analysis of workflow / process

PROJECT MANAGERS (PM-10-06)

- At least five (5) years experience in Software Analysis and design
- At least five (5) years experience in Project Management in a banking environment
- Working knowledge of multiple programming languages and operating systems and RDBMS

PROGRAMMERS (PROG-10-06)

- At least a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (Computer / Telecommunication), Computer Science / Information Technology or equivalent courses
- Knowledgeable in at least two of the following programming languages: C C++, Java, Visual Basic, SQL and UBIX
- Fresh graduates may apply

ACCOUNT OFFICERS (AO-10-06) / REMEDIAL ACCOUNT OFFICERS (RAO-10-06)

(For Account Management, Binondo Business Center, Consumer Banking - Head Office, Batangas and Cebu)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Business Management, Finance, Economics or Accountancy
- With three (3) to five (5) years experience in marketing / credit / lending
- For Consumer Banking, should be knowledgeable in property appraisal
- For Remedial Account Officers, at least three (3) years actual remedial management experience in a financial institution
- With strong negotiating and transaction-structuring abilities
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo Business Center

CREDIT RISK POLICY OFFICERS (CRO-10-06) / CREDIT RISK MANAGERS (CRM-10-06)

- Graduate of Accounting, Business Management, Finance, Economics
- Masteral degree / CPA licensure would be an advantage
- For Credit Risk Policy Officers:
    - At least three (3) years experience in credit risk management, with special focus on credit policy and credit risk rating systems gained from a bank or financial institution
    - Knowledgeable in local banking regulatory requirements
- For Credit Risk Managers:
    - At least three (3) years experience in conducting thorough credit evaluation, risk analysis, preparation of spreadsheets primarily involving medium to large corporations and financial institutions
    - With experience in supervising people

CREDIT REVIEW OFFICERS (CRO-10-06)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Business Management, Finance, Economics or Accountancy
- At least two (2) years of credit review or audit experience in a financial institution
- Familiar with credit lending process

CREDIT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OFFICERS (CMS-10-06)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Business Management, Finance, Economics or Accountancy
- Has banking experience in handling the Central Liability system

OPERATIONS OFFICERS (OPR-10-06)

(For Remittance, Trust and Treasury)

- Graduate of Business Administration, Business Management, Finance, Economics or Accountancy
- Preferably a CPA, if Accounting graduate
- For Remittance, should have at least five (5) years banking experience and with in-depth knowledge and application of the remittance flow
- For Trust, should be knowledgeable in accounting procedures and principles preferably gained from a bank
- For Treasury:
    - Should have extensive and well-rounded experience in international and domestic treasury operations
    - Must be able to assess and recommend system improvements to streamline processes

BRANCH STAFF (BS-10-06)

Sales Associates / Tellers / Customer Relations Assistants / Branch Accounting Assistants

- Business course and Accounting graduates
- For sales, with keen interest in selling and dealing with people
- Customer-service oriented
- Very good communication and interpersonal skills
- Above average scholastic records
- Fluency in Fookien for Binondo branches

Please send your resume (with position code indicated at the upper right hand corner), transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 photo on or before November 15, 2006 to:

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Or via Email: recruitment@chinabank.ph with position code indicated on the subject line.

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- ■ Should have sufficient background in overall supervision and management on massive project structure.
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- ■ Computer literate.

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Requirements:
1) Male 21 – 35 years old
2) Accounting graduate, preferably CPA
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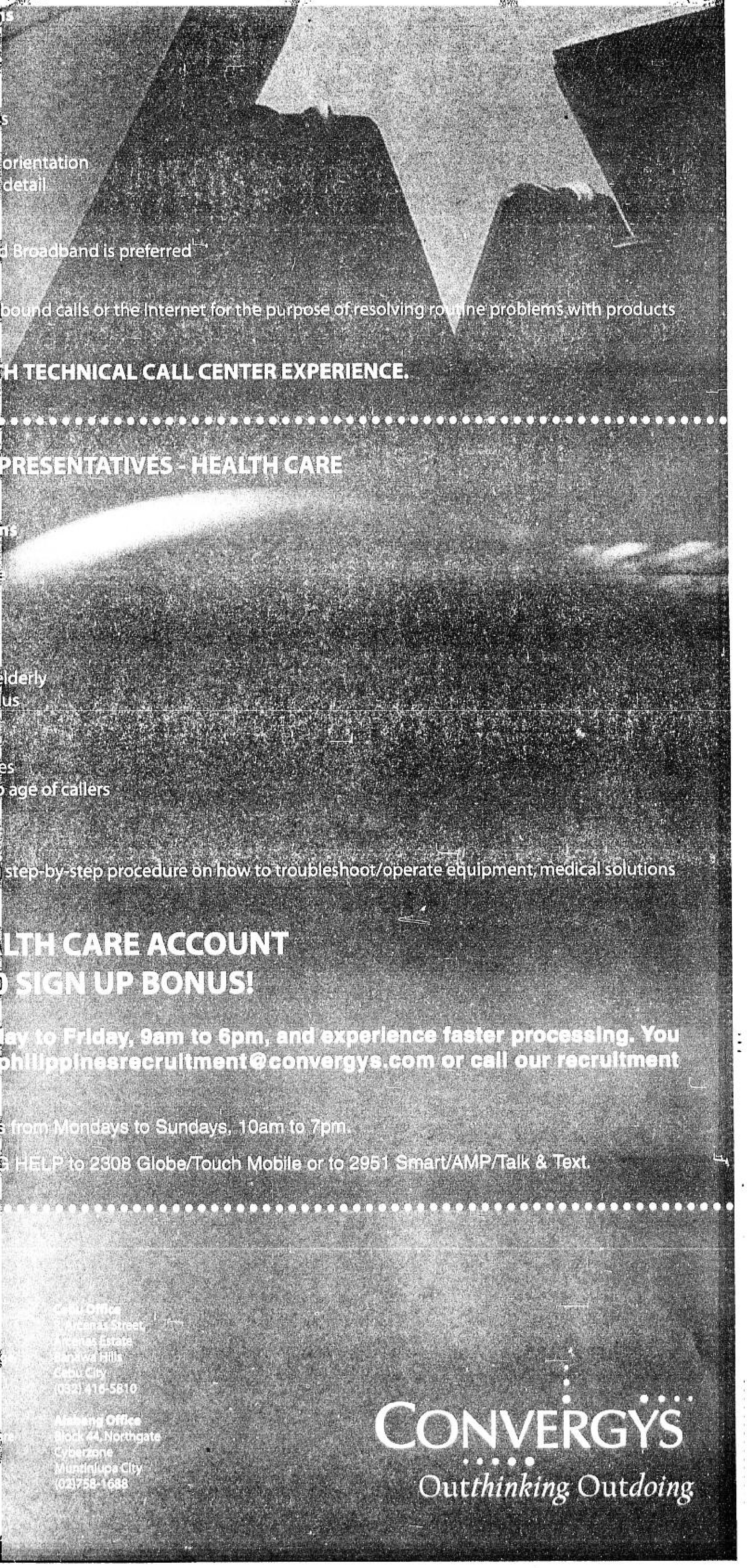

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

Educational and Professional Certifications
- Bachelor's degree holder from any field
- At least finished 2nd year level in college

Candidate Profile
- Knowledge of basic computer operations
- Willingness to rotate shifts, as needed
- Courteous with strong customer service orientation
- Dependable with proficient attention to detail
- Good listening and responding skills
- Solid problem solving skills
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- Above average communication skills
- Can type at least 20wpm
- Ability to spell well, as many callers are elderly
- Prior customer service experience is a plus
- Good problem solving skills
- Good learning agility
- Willingness to adapt to schedule changes
- High level of patience & empathy due to age of callers
- Medical course graduate is preferred

Dimension and Scope
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For U-Belt applicants, we accept walk-ins from Mondays to Sundays, 10am to 7pm.

For information on how to apply, text CVG HELP to 2308 Globe/Touch Mobile or to 2951 Smart/AMP/Talk & Text.

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Equitable Tower
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center Pasig City
(02)[illegible]

Commonwealth Office
Diliman Commercial Center
146 Don Mariano Marcos
Avenue Diliman Quezon City
(02)[illegible]

Makati Office
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Salcedo St. Legaspi Village
Makati City
(02)756-7188

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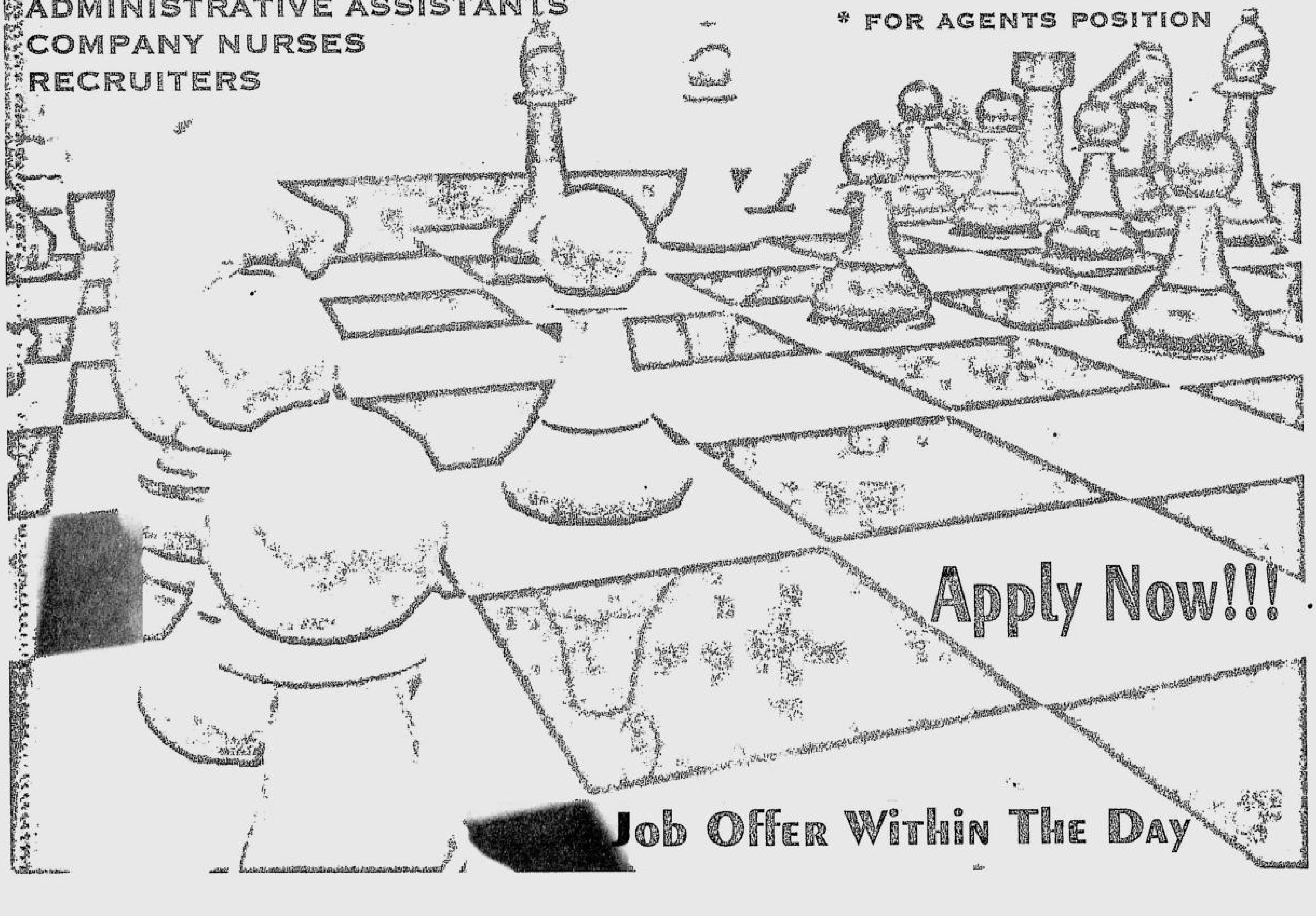

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in
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TECHNIQUES ON GAINING OVERWHELMING ORGANIZATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS

Session 2: Nov. 16, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mike Malaghan shares 10 BIG BETS that gave his company an overwhelming competitive edge in the marketplace and 10 BIG self-imposed mistakes that threatened his company. He will reveal how he made those decisions, why mistakes took too long to correct and what he learned from each failure and triumph.

Stories and examples include: • How listening to lawyers while ignoring consumerism almost cost his company an entire sales division • How a borrowed system soured labor-management relations and almost brought his company to bankruptcy in Japan • How a manager's trust and confidence in his team or lack thereof can make a huge difference in a team's performance • How an unprofitable agreement made more than 20 company employees millionaires • How the arrogance of one manager can stop organizational growth and how Mike turned this arrogance into an opportunity for explosive growth thus "turning a bad thing into a good thing" • How people with the best of intentions can produce the worst of results & how the same people can become leaders producing the best of results.

As you listen to Mike's stories and lessons he learned, think of your biggest mistake and what you learned. You might be asked to share your story!

JOIN and PARTICIPATE in 3 INTERACTIVE seminars conducted in the same transparent manner he used to fast-track leadership development in his company which resulted in an increase in sales five-fold in a decade.

Session 1: Nov. 15, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tipping Points for Career Success
Session 3: Nov. 17, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Strategies for Effective Leadership
Session descriptions available at:
www.optimusinnovations.com/events.html

VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

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HRD (S) PTE., LTD

The company is engaged into producing of computer-aided architectural and structural design including continuous research and development.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

COMPANY NURSE

- Female / Single
- 25 to 30 years of age and with pleasing personality
- BS Nursing Graduate (Licensed)
- Preferably with one (1) year related experience

OFFICE / MIS STAFF

- Male / Female not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of any 3 year / 4 year / 5 year course
- Computer Literate
- Knowledge in AutoCAD is aplus

MAINTENANCE STAFF

- **Electrician**
- **AC Technician**
- **Forklift Operator**
- **Batching Plant Operator**
- **Machine Installer**
- **Welder**
- **Boiler Operator / Technician**
- **Material Controller**
- **Loader Operator**
- **Rigger**
- **Plumber**
- **Reverse Osmosis Operator (R/O)**
- **Telephone Technician**

Qualifications:

- Male not more than 32 years old
- Graduate of any related vocational course / College Level
- With minimum of six (6) months related experience

POWERPLANT STAFF

- Male not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical / Electrical Engineering or Basic Seaman Course
- With or without license
- Must have a basic computer knowledge
- Willing to work long hours and night shift schedule

Experience in a day-to-day operation & maintenance of a power generator plant (checking of diesel engines, power generators and control panels) is an advantage.

Interested applicants must bring bio-data / resumé with 2x2 picture, diploma, Transcript of Record and SSS Employment History at:

HRD (S) PTE., LTD.
LOT 7, BLOCK 9, PHASE 1, PEZA, ROSARIO, CAVITE
Tel. No. (046) 437-1188 loc. 122
Look for Ms. Jessica L. Sore
E-mail: personnel02@hrd-s.com

A daily E-Newspaper producing several International edition is in need of the following:

Position: News Writer/Editor
Location: Makati City

Requirements:

- A four-year degree in Mass Communication/Journalism
- Must have high analytical and comprehensiion skills
- Excellent English communication and grammar skills
- Top notch news writing/ editing/proofreading skills
- Proficient in typing and PC use
- Should be willing to work evenings and able to withstand the pressure from daily deadlines
- Those conversant in a third language have a definite advantage

Position: System Programmer & Network Administrator
Location: Makati City

Requirements:

- Extensive experience in ASP and PHP Programming
- Willing to work evenings (6 days a week, including weekends)
- Can communicate in English with other IT officer and non-technical people

E-mail resumé including expected salary range (in .txt format) to nlp.jobs@gmail.com

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The incumbent will work in the General Services Office and will oversee the provision of maintenance services to approximately 28 houses and apartments, the warehouse, and on an adhoc basis to the office building. He/she oversees the work of 9 contract staff on a daily basis, supplemented by up to an additional 10 persons during the busy season. He/she also monitors and directs the work of various firms contracted to provide major specialized services of installations.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Completion of secondary school is required. Completion of at least 2 years of vocational training or 2 years university training in engineering related field. Completion of university degree is desirable.
- Four years of progressively responsible experience in maintenance service. Supervisory experience in maintenance/construction and inspection. Must have experience in planning and cost estimating for major maintenance and construction repair.
- Must have a sound working knowledge of building construction and grounds maintenance and safety. Must have good knowledge of maintenance, trade operating practice, and planning and estimating experience procedures.
- Expertise in supervisory and teamwork skills is essential.

COMPENSATION: Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 3, 2006

SEND LETTER OF APPLICATION
WITH COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

PRIMESTATE

A fast growing real estate developer (townhouse, condominiums, residential houses) is inviting qualified individuals to join our current pool of career-oriented and dedicated personnel for our future expansion.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Female, not more than 35 years old. Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with 5 years relevant work experience. Knowledge of finance, accounting, budgeting and cost control procedures. With exposure in audit works. Strong leadership quality, flexible, can work under pressure, result oriented.

ADMINISTRATION & HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Female, not more than 35 years old. Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources Management or any related course. 5 years experience in administration and human resources management role with progressively increasing responsibility. Ability to define and deliver high quality human resource programs and general office administration processes Excellent leadership skills and strategic vision

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING MANAGER

Female, not more than 35 years old Bachelor's Degree in Business, Marketing or Economics. 5 years relevant work experience. Knowledge of market research, standards and practice, economics and statistical analyses, product development, business financial analysis and project evaluation. Strong negotiation skills, can work under pressure and result oriented

SALES EXECUTIVES/PROPERTY SPECIALISTS

Female, not more than 30 years old. Graduate of any 4-year business course. Proven track record in property management, sales and marketing. Excellent salesmanship skills. Teamplayer, can work under pressure, result oriented.

All positions are required to be knowledgeable in Microsoft Office: WORD, EXCEL and POWERPOINT.

Interested individuals may send their comprehensive resume with recent 2"x2" picture thru

Mail
HUMAN RESOURCES
& ADMIN. DEPARTMENT
Primestate Ventures, Inc.
145 Matalag St., Diliman, Quezon City

E-mail meannevasquez@yahoo.com

Previous applicants need not apply.

We are looking to expand our horizons to online shopping. We are in need of:

WEB DEVELOPER

Male / Female
Knowledgeable in HTML, Flash & Photoshop
MySQL & Javascript is an advantage
Minimum of two years experience

RECEPTIONIST

Female, 21-28 years old
Fluent in English (written & oral)
College Level
MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint

Interested applicants may hand carry their Resumé and Portfolio to:

XAX MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT
14F Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. 811-0725 Email. jmm@xaxmusic.com

SM X CONVENTION CENTER

A member of the SM Management Group of Companies

The country's newest and largest privately-run exhibition and convention center that is soon to open. A world-class venue for international exhibitions, large-scale local trade events and major industry conventions equipped with modern facilities. We are looking for people with the drive, confidence and passion to join our team who will deliver excellent service to our clients.

CONVENTION MANAGER

Prepare bid packages for local and international conventions and major corporate functions. Coordinate and implement venue requirement and arrangements with the convention organizers and industry suppliers.

Qualifications
Should have at least three (3) years of work experience in convention/event management and/or hotel banquet sales; a degree holder of marketing, tourism or business-related field from a reputable university; self-motivated, customer-oriented, outgoing personality, and with excellent communication and presentation skills.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Operate and maintain the building, its facilities and equipment according to safety and security standards in the most efficient way.

Qualifications
At least three (3) years of work experience in building and facilities maintenance and administration management; graduate of Electrical, Mechanical or Civil Engineering from a reputable university and preferably licensed; excellent communication and people skills, techno savvy and innovative.

MARKETING MANAGER

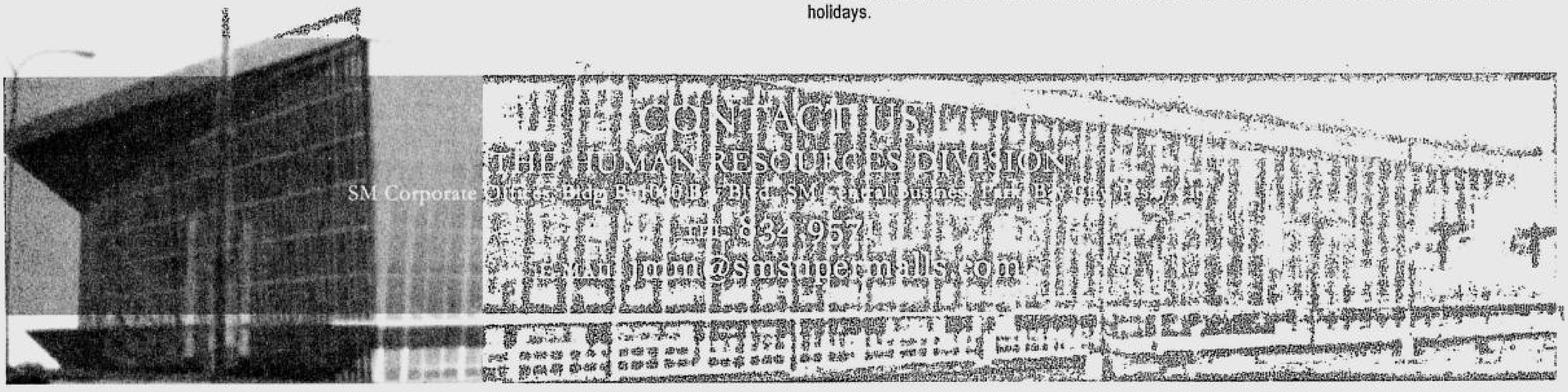
Prepare and implement marketing promotions plan/strategies to generate local and international awareness of the venue, including building a strong network of foreign booking agents.

Qualifications
Should have at least three (3) years of work experience in all facets of marketing management (e.g., advertising and promotions, market research/positioning, events/campaign management), exposure to international marketing management will be an advantage; degree holder of marketing or business-related course from a reputable university; creative, techno savvy, with excellent communication and people skills.

EXHIBIT OFFICERS/CONVENTION OFFICERS

Account management, servicing of venue requirement and coordination with the contractors and suppliers of exhibition/convention organizers.

Qualifications
At least 6 months to 1 year work experience in sales, convention and events coordination; degree holder of marketing, tourism or business-related course; computer literate; good communication, presentation and negotiation skills; experienced at handling customer complaints and providing excellent customer service, with pleasing personality, aggressive, competitive and highly-motivated; trainable, can work with minimum supervision and willing to work on weekends and holidays.



CONTACT US
THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
SM Corporate Offices Bldg [illegible]
[illegible] 834 957[illegible]
[illegible]@smsupermalls.com

Position Open: OPERATIONS ENGINEER

A progressive water company needs a top-notch Engineer for its operations team. Applicants should be licensed civil, mechanical or electrical engineers, computer-literate, and with at least 2 years' experience in water/wastewater or utility projects. The area of operations is in Laguna province.

To the successful applicant, we offer a challenging job, an attractive package and a chance to grow with the company.

Please send a full resumé, 3 references and a recent passport photo to: **ecghrd@yahoo.com**. Only qualified applicants will be interviewed.

We are a growing IT services and solutions provider based in Madrigal Business Park, Ayala-Alabang. Our business portfolio includes developing interactive online learning content and empowering organizations to create, manage and deliver elearning programs. Our company is looking to fill the role of a: -

SALES CONSULTANT/ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

To be considered for this role:
- 3+ years in enterprise solutions selling working in the medium to large enterprise market
- Proven ability to prospect new business and achieve sales targets
- Proven track record of managing client relationships from initial introduction through to closing sales
- Proven ability to build brand and company awareness within your environment
- High level of interpersonal skills to communicate with C-level executives
- Exceptional presentation – personal, written and oral communication
- Outstanding negotiation and closing abilities
- Solid business acumen
- Excellent customer service
- Solid knowledge of Microsoft suite of products and the internet
- Background in training and HR operation (an advantage)

This is a great opportunity for the driven sales professional. An outstanding package is on offer for the right candidate. Career growth opportunity is available.

Interested applicants may email their resume to The Recruitment Officer at hr@learning-epower.com or mail to Unit 6H Westgate Tower, Investment Drive, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

CONTACT PERSON: KATRINA TORRES
OFFICE ADDRESS: UNIT 6H WESTGATE TOWER, INVESTMENT DRIVE, MADRIGAL BUSINESS PARK, AYALA ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY 1780
TELEPHONE: 850-0026
FAX: 850-0026 loc. 107

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A proponent of PAGCOR (Casino Filipino) and one of the fastest growing gaming companies in the country, we are inviting qualified individuals to join our current pool of career-oriented and dedicated personnel for our future expansion.

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Female, not more than 35 years old. Certified Public Accountant (CPA). 5 years work experience in Finance & General Accounting. With exposure in audit works. Strong leadership quality, flexible, can work under pressure, result-oriented.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION OFFICER
Female, not more than 35 years old. Graduate of Communication Arts, MassCom, Business Administration or Management. 5 years work experience in corporate communication. Excellent business writing skills. Can deal with all levels of people in the organization.

MARKETING OFFICER
Female, not more than 35 years old. Graduate of Marketing or Advertising. 3 years extensive marketing experience gained in a service-oriented company: strategy, project and promo development; conceptualization and implementation of marketing activities. Possesses dynamic and energetic personality, teamplayer and result-oriented. Pleasing personality.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS ASSISTANTS
Female, not more than 30 years old. Graduate of any 4 year business course. 1 year work experience in a service-oriented company. Excellent communication & interpersonal skills. Teamplayer, customer relations oriented. Pleasing personality with a minimum height of 5'3".

All positions are required to be knowledgeable in Microsoft Office: WORD, EXCEL and POWERPOINT. Interested individuals may send their comprehensive resumé with recent 2"x2" picture thru:

Mail: **HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMIN. DEPARTMENT**
Goldenview Int'l Gaming & Amusement Corp.
145 Matatag St., Diliman, Quezon City
E-mail: hr_goldenview@yahoo.com

Previous applicants need not apply.

Canon

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech) is Canon's Product R&D center in Southeast Asia. We urgently need engineers for our current and future projects.

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- Graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Technology, Computer Science, or Information Technology

Software Quality Assurance Engineers

- Responsible for performing and executing test and review procedures to ensure the quality of the product for delivery
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology or any equivalent course

Software Engineers

- Responsible for developing software using C, C++, or Java
- Graduate of Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Information Technology and other science or technical courses with programming background

Process Design Engineers

- Initiate and implement software process and quality improvement activities
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology, Business Administration/Management or other science related course

For qualified candidates, this is your chance to be a part of an Excellent Global Company.

Please send a copy of your comprehensive resumé
with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resumé and Transcript of Records to **recruitment@citech.com.ph**

Lessons from the CEO Who Created Millionaires

MAKING MILLIONS in DIRECT SALES
MICHAEL G. MALAGHAN

MICHAEL G. MALAGHAN

A legend in the field of sales
Author of "Making Millions in Direct Sales"

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Session 3: Nov. 17, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Malaghan started his career in 1961 as a book salesman. He finished his career 41 years later as president of International Horizons (licensee of The Walt Disney Company) leading five direct-sales organizations spread across Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan in 1992, he started an incredible streak of increased sales every year for 11 consecutive years After being promoted to president, he raised sales in Japan from $50M to $110M in three years as part of the quarter billion dollar empire he retired from only a few years ago.In the process he created millionaires from the ranks of his sales managers.

SUBSIDIZED REGISTRATION FEES PER SESSION:
P1,500 (Balcony), P1,750 (Orchestra), P2,000 (Patron) With VAT
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A popular learning event by:
OPTIMUS INNOVATIONS, INC www.optimusinnovations.com
E-mail: info@optimusinnovations.com

Mike Malaghan's leadership built a quarter billion dollar marketing machine. He admits that his was a "borrowed leadership." He shares the many lessons he learned from the ten leaders who he reported to and worked for and those leaders who reported to him. Ten leaders, 20 stories; half exposing harmful leadership weaknesses; half telling of imposing leadership attributes. Great strengths almost always overcome weaknesses.

Some strategies include:

- When to use "stubbornness" to keep a company together and when not to use this same "stubbornness" to the detriment of the company's growth
- How to develop great managers by knowing when to keep them under your "wing" and when you have to let them "fly" on their own
- How to use "make believe" to achieve the winning edge
- How a leader has to be at the frontline for people to follow him
- How to duplicate effective leadership

Be prepared to add your own story to this session as Mike and the audience interact to enrich this session with stories

JOIN and PARTICIPATE [illegible] 3 INTERACTIV[illegible] [illegible]ars conducted in the same transpare[illegible] manne[illegible] fast-track leadership developmen[illegible] resulted in an increase in sale[illegible]

Session 1: Nov. 15, 3 p.m - 7 p.m.
Tipping Points for Career Success
Session 2: Nov. 16, 3 p.m - 7 p.m.
Techniques on Gaining Overwhelming Organizational Competitiveness

Session descriptions available at:
www.optimusinnovations.com/events.htm.
VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

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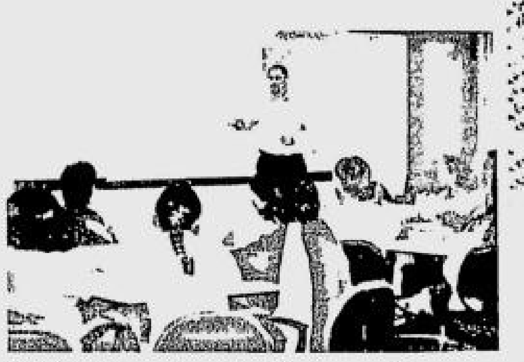
ePerformax Contact Centers to educate 'Near Hires'

EPERFORMAX CONTACT CENTERS IS proud to announce that it has received accreditation from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) for its Finishing Course for Call Center Agents/NC II. ePerformax is the first call center in the Philippines to be accredited by Tesdafor this training that will enable it to educate industry "near hires," a program that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been pushing to support the country's fast-growing BPO industry.

Ronald Arambulo, ePerformax's general manager, says the contact center's accreditation supports the company's commitment to training as a continuous process. "This accreditation by Tesda is significant for us, and being the first call center in the country to receive it is a testament to the quality of our training program and approach. We're adding over 600 new hires between now and the end of the year, and the ability to train "near hires" for some of these positions is not only exciting for our organization, but we're helping meet the President's focus on this important initiative for our country."

The company's training manager, Justin Myers, is convinced the program will generate the targeted success rate considering the trainability and talent of the Filipino workforce as a whole. "We've had success with previous near-hire training programs in the company (although unaccredited by Tesda), and the Philippine government's support will enable us to expand this project further and give more applicants the opportunity to improve their English communication skills. An added advantage is that once they graduate from our program, they will have employment opportunities with ePerformax, since we are not just a training institution, but an actual call center."


JUSTIN Myers: 'near hire' trainees will be getting the best of both worlds in terms of training.

Myers goes on to state that: "In fact, 'near-hire' trainees will be getting the best of both worlds in terms of training, because they will be getting actual hands-on call center experience coupled with ePerformax's proven training methods to improve their English."

To sign up for the Finishing Course for Call Center Agents, interested trainees may go to a Tesda center and take the multi-aptitude test battery (MATB) or log on to the Tesda website (www.tesda.gov.ph) or PHIL-Jobnet (www.phil-job.net). If they achieve the required score, they will receive a voucher to use at an accredited training academy, such as ePerformax. Interested "near hires" may also go to ePerformax and apply through the company's recruiting process. If they meet the qualifications and criteria, they will be placed in the company's Finishing Course training. ePerformax plans to run two classes a month, expanding it to five at the first of the year.

Job evaluation and salary structure design workshop

MAGNITUDE Human Resource Development announces its upcoming seminar-workshop entitled Job Evaluation and Salary Structure Design on Nov. 14 and 15, 2006 at the Laguna Garden Café, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City. This two-day training promises a wealth of information in the field of compensation management for Human Resource practitioners, professionals and entrepreneurs.

Rafael Z. Perfecto, a well-known speaker in compensation management will conduct the seminar. Perfecto is a former director of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a Fellow in Personnel Management (FPM), and currently a consultant for top multinational companies.

Topics for this seminar include Job Analysis, Job Description Writing, Job Rating Plan, Use of Salary Ranges, Salary Survey Analysis, and Salary Structure Design. To register, please call 0917-890-9595, (02) 806-3370 & (02) 802-2453 or email magnitudehrd@yahoo.com. Early registration discount applies.

ITCrossings
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IT CROSSINGS - MANILA, INC., is an information technology outsourcing firm formed to cater to the Life and Health Insurance Industry. This firm provides insurance companies with affordable IT services from its offices in Net One Center Bonifacio Global City. **IT Crossings** is a subsidiary of US based **LIDP Consulting Services Incorporated,** the premier provider of software solutions to the Life and Health Insurance industry. For 25 years **LIDP** has provided enterprise software and consulting services to many of the top insurance companies worldwide. **IT Crossings** will enable **LIDP** to continue to provide superior service to it's clients from it's Taguig offices. These services include conversion, interface, enhancement and testing support covering all areas of insurance operations.

We are currently in need of a:

PROGRAMMER / ANALYST

Requirements:

- University Graduate with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent.
- Preferably with 1-2 years experience with programming
- Proficiency in Cobol, Java, Perl or CICS is preferred.
- Life Insurance background is preferred but not required
- Must be resourceful, flexible, fast learner and possess good communication skills.

Competitive remuneration packages awaits qualified candidates. Kindly forward your resume to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 5-3 Net One Center
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax No: 815-4936
Email: resume@itcrossings.com

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EMPLOYER ARRIVING NEXT MONTH TO DO FINAL SELECTION

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Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

KAUH, a 600 bed[illegible] Teaching Hospital affiliated with the Ministr[illegible] of Saudi Arabia, NEEDS

(150) NURSES (All Areas)

- EEG / ECG / ECHO / RADIOLOGY NURSES
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- MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS *working experience*

Benefits: 2 years contr[illegible] [illegible]tion for every 10 [illegible] months free round trip ti[illegible] [illegible]odation with subsidized food, yearly incremen[illegible] service education [illegible] updating seminars [illegible] & documentation fees)

- MIDWIVES
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- X-RAY TECHS.
- PHARMACIST ASST. / TECHS. (F)
- CSSD TECHNOLOGISTS - M[illegible] B[illegible]chelor's degree from accredited Sch[illegible] of Nur[illegible] [illegible]n Operating Room and 2 yrs experien[illegible] [illegible]aterial management.

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CAREER UP CO., LTD. - *JAPAN* *NEEDS* **PROGRAMMERS**

JOB DESCRIPTIONS [illegible] [illegible]ltancy/Accepting Software [illegible]velopment; Staff Leasing/ [illegible] *SOFTWARE DEVEL[illegible]PMENT SKILLS:* Application Software Server(Linux [illegible] *PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE SKILLS:* PH[illegible] [illegible] VHDL .NET C# etc.)

JOB DESCRIPTIONS: [illegible] put Graphic Design/Contents De[illegible] *SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS.* [illegible] Editing System, Real Time Vis[illegible] *PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE SKILLS:* Perl, [illegible] VC++ Visual C Others Assemi[illegible] .NET [illegible] .NET pyth[illegible] not much)

JOB DESCRIPTIONS: [illegible] Process Outsourcing Digitalizing Data, Others(Online Shops Operating Support etc.) *SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT SKILLS:* Application Software *PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE SKILLS:* Visual Ba[illegible] C++ Visual C VC.NET, DB(SQL Server Oracle) Others Assembly VHDL

YSTILO SALON CORPORATION
YSTILO SALON
Immediate Hiring

STORE MANAGERS (Female)

- BS Management Graduate or any related course with or without salon experience.
- Has an excellent oral and written communication skill in English and Tagalog.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy and can develop good rapport with co-employees.
- With pleasing personality.
- Preferably with experience in fastfood chains.
- Dedicated and TEAM player & can handle pressure.
- Computer literate and willing to assist client and work on extended hours during weekends and Holidays or as needed.

RECEPTIONISTS (Female)

- College Level Graduate.
- Has a good oral and written communication skill.
- With pleasing personality.
- Able to relate with customers with courtesy.
- Computer literate.

SENIOR STYLISTS (Male)
JUNIOR STYLISTS (Female)

Interested qualified applicants may send their resume at:
75 Timog Avenue, Brgy. South Triangle, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 927.75.08 / 927.75.09 or thru e-mail: hrd@ystilosalon.com

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unicef

Programme Communication Officer

Under the general guidance of the Communication Officer, responsible for the design, management, execution, monitoring and evaluation of a behaviour change and social mobilization strategy in support of the country programme

Essential qualifications:

- Advanced university degree in the social/behavioural sciences (Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Health Education) with emphasis on participatory communication, communication planning, social mobilization, participatory research, training and impact evaluation of communication, interventions.
- Five years of progressively responsible work experience in the planning and management of social development programmes, with practical experience in the adaptation and application of communication planning processes to specific programmes.
- Fluency in English and Filipino, both oral and written
- Computer skills, including internet navigation, and various office applications
- Must have the ability to work in an international and multi-cultural environment
- Experience in the UN System, an advantage

Please send cover letter and curriculum vitae before **10 Nov 2006** to:
The HR UNIT through e-mail: gpfernandez@unicef.org
We will only reply to shortlisted candidates.
UNICEF is non-smoking working environment. Applications from qualified women are encouraged.

URGENT JOB OPENINGS

Systems Administrator - responsible for deploying Microsoft infrastructure server products and new releases as well as design, install, configure, maintain and perform system integration of server operating systems / infrastructure server products and related utilities; must have knowledge in Windows Services including clustering, Exchange 2003 and LCS, extensive experience in ISA 2004, Proxy, PKI, RMS & WSUS, enterprise-level experience in SMS 2003, MOM 2005 & WSUS, and enterprise-level experience in SQL 2000, CMS 2003 & SPS 2003

QA/QC Site Engineer - responsible for support in the development and implementation of site specific quality control systems necessary to meet project standards and specifications

Senior Scheduler/Cost Specialist candidate must have 10 years experience in Home office and site, working for a major EPC Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Company in the petrochemical industry, has worked on projects in the range of $50 to $200 million, expert level knowledge of TIMBERLINE PRIMAVERA or equivalent estimating or cost control system

Junior Project Scheduler - must be able to create, maintain and analyze cost and resource loaded schedules in Primavera P3 and MS Project. Perform earned value calculations and produce EV reports. Must be proficient in Excel. Access skills a plus. Must have initiative but also be able to follow direction. Has to be able to produce deliverables on short notice and meet deadlines. Must be flexible and able to work remotely

Senior Document Control Specialist - responsibilities include implementation of document control procedures, receiving, processing and distribution of project documents, management of document postings on the Project website, management master project documentation database, and interface with field teams and home office

Project Estimator - prepare estimating procedures used on projects/proposals

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumes personally to Mark or Kenny at HRSolutions Worldwide Inc., 22/F 6750, Ayala Avenue, Makati City from October 27 to October 31 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

An established engineering consulting firm is in urgent need of the following:

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- **Cadet Structural Engineers**
  Licensed CE, 1 yr max experience, dean's lister
- **Cost/Contracts & Project Engineers**
  Licensed CE, 1 to 5 yrs experience.
- **Cad Operators (Structural)**
  Arch or CE graduate 1 to 5 yrs experience
- **Admin & Accounting Staff**
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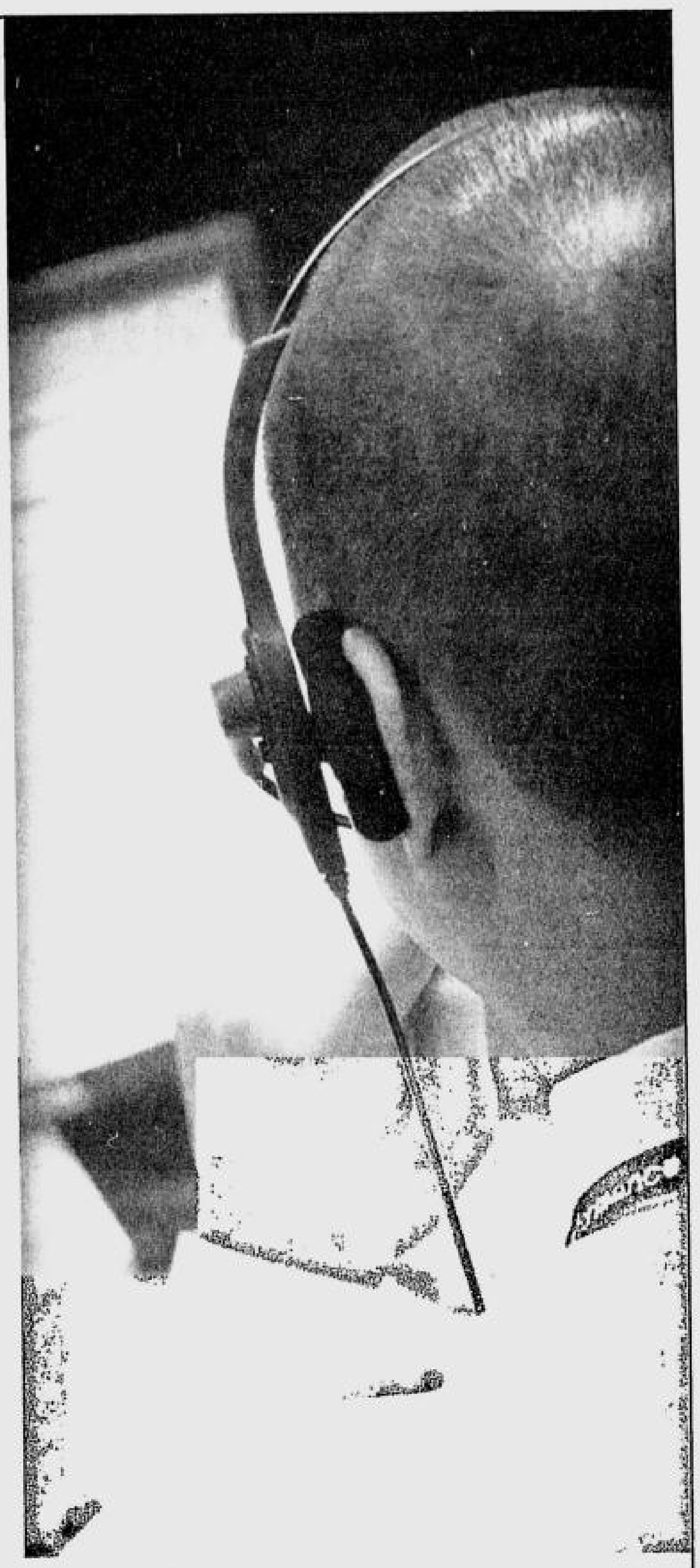

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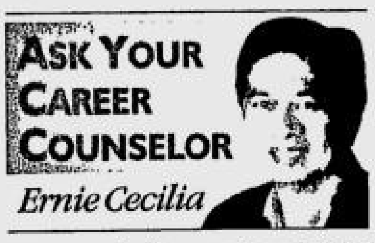
'How can an OFW make her family spend money wisely?'



ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR
Ernie Cecilia

I HAVE BEEN WORKING abroad for almost five years now. I regularly remit majority of my earnings to my family. The last time I went home for vacation in our province, I was disgusted to realize that after several years of labor, we still rely on my fixed income from working abroad.

My husband takes care of our three children, all of whom are now in school. He is also employed, but is not earning enough. I have always encouraged him to save and start a small business. However, despite my encouragement, he has not yet started even a *sari-sari* store. He says that the money I send regularly is hardly enough to cover our children's schooling and daily expenses.

How can I make my family realize my problem? What can I do so that I can look forward to a brighter future when I am no longer capable of working as an OFW (overseas Filipino worker)? I am afraid that after years of hardship, away from my family, I might go back to the Philippines still as poor as when I started working abroad.

Lady in Distress

Congratulations for being a modern heroine. Your remittances continue to keep our economy alive. I can understand what you are going through. In fact, I believe that nothing siphons your energy and productivity "on the job" like financial distress and hopelessness "in the home." It seems that your problem is not in your remittance. I think that no matter how large the money you send home regularly, your problem will persist.

Common problem

I will venture to say that in the Philippines, most of the retired men and women are not really enjoying their "golden" years. Many Filipinos have labored here or abroad looking forward to their retirement day, only to find themselves more financially distressed than when they were receiving a measly regular sum every 15 days. Sometimes, I think that there are more 21-year-old men and women who have P1,000 in their pockets today than there are at age 66.

Money is not the solution

If you want your family to spend your money more wisely, more money is not the solution. The more money you spend, the greater will be your problem. Your fear of being poorer than when you started working will always be there, unless you start preparing for it now.

"Giving fish" to your family will not make them self-sufficient. Try "teaching them to fish." This is an old cliché, but it might work for you. You said your husband is also gainfully employed, but his income and your remittances can hardly sustain your children's schooling and daily expenses. You have encouraged your husband to start a small business. Maybe, you have the right idea, but there is something lacking in the equation.

Programmed to work

There can be a strong possibility that you and your husband are simply programmed to work for somebody or some institution. Perhaps, that's what you both prepared for and are good at, your whole life through. Going into business requires a different set of knowledge, skills and attitude. Unless your husband acquires this new set, it will be difficult for him to start and succeed in business.

Many Filipinos have been programmed to just work and look forward to a fixed income. Sadly, they have not been taught what to do when they receive a large sum of money, like remittances from an OFW. (This is not only true with OFWs and their family. This is also true with fresh graduates who receive their first payroll.) I commiserate with the thousands of OFWs who keep on sending money to their relatives here, only to find out that everything they sent is spent within the week that their families receive the money.

Suggestions

Firstly, realize that you can't stay working as an OFW forever. Take advantage of every opportunity that you can have to earn and learn. Learn more so that you can do more. Even abroad, if you have opportunities to earn beyond your fixed income, go for it. Earn as much as you can with the time you have.

Second, realize that money has no mind of its own. Your money will not go to where you intend it to go—business, for example. You will cause what you want to happen with your money. If your husband is not up to it, talk to him and convince him. Give him time to prepare himself and the family.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Talk to him about specifics—not just any business. If he needs training or advice, then by all means let him have it before he starts your own business.

Third, don't spend all that you earn. Save, save, save. Tell your husband and children to start saving at least 10 percent of what you send them. Task them to open savings accounts that you will inspect when you go home on vacation. Later, ask them to increase their savings to 20 percent of what you send them. Get your family's cooperation to stick to a monthly budget.

Do not splurge, even on special occasions, like birthdays or Christmas. Spend only on what is absolutely necessary. Tell them how hard it is for you to earn the money you send, and they should not squander that money. You are more fortunate than other Filipinos—you have two incomes in your family. Millions of Filipinos are jobless today.

Your problem is not **acquisition** of money. Your problem is **accumulation**. Unless you accumulate money, you will never experience financial freedom.

Fourth, don't lose what you save. Save while abroad, and bring it back with you. Tell your husband and your children to save, and don't let them spend those savings. If there is an emergency, let them get money from you, not from their savings.

Fifth, have self-discipline in your family. Write to your family, talk to them about your concerns. Enlist their cooperation, ask them to learn self-discipline. Exact the same standard of self-discipline on them that you impose on yourself. Without this, all the other suggestions will not do you any good.

Once you and your family have saved enough capital for a small business or investment, it will be easy to start your own business. Today, there are franchises available for even lower than P20,000. (If you are interested to know more about this or other opportunities, e-mail me.)

Incidentally, there are a few good institutions that help OFWs, Filipino professionals here or abroad, and their families. One such entity is the BalikPINAS Multi-Purpose Cooperative. Check out their website at http://www.balikpinas.com.ph.

Money is not the solution to money problems. You need knowledge about money and how it works. Have a financial roadmap of where you want to be in the future. Get your family's understanding of that roadmap and their cooperation in taking care of the money you send them. Otherwise, in your lifetime, you will earn a lot of money, but the same money will just literally roll through your fingers and never know where it all went.

(Ernie Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

Honoring honest crew

HONESTY IS STILL THE BEST policy at McDonald's. Just ask Jessica "Jeng" F. Docot and Joweph R. Goingco, crew members recently honored by McDonald's for returning around P200,000 worth of cash and items.

McDonald's awarded the lobby crew members with plaques and gift checks for their good deeds to customers of McDonald's Greenhills. Working student Jeng Docot, 21 years old, found P25,000 and two high-end cell phones while 18-year-old Joweph Goingco returned a man's Rolex watch.

"We at McDonald's are very proud of these two individuals because they exhibit the best qualities of a McDonald's employee. They are industrious, courteous, energetic and honest. They always have the customer's best interest in mind," said Kenneth S. Yang, president and CEO of McDonald's Philippines.

GOINGCO

DOCOT

While only three months into the job, Docot and Goingco have seen all kinds of things customers leave behind.They have found bags, wallets, loose change and even dentures while bussing tables.

It was at breakfast time last June 22 when 21-year-old Docot found an envelope containing P25,000 and a check on a chair while she was cleaning up. She said the customer must have placed the envelope in his back pocket and dropped it as he rose up from his chair upon leaving.

Without even investigating the contents of the envelope, Docot immediately surrendered it to the manager. Hours later, an old gentleman came back to claim the envelope.

"Nagkita po kami sa may CR tapos pinakilala po ako ng manager *namin sa kanya. Sobrang natuwa sya. Gusto niya akong bigyan ng pera. Hinahanapan pa nga niya ako ng* pocket," Docot narrated. She respectfully declined the reward and opted for a thank you instead. It was part of her job after all, just like when previously she found two cell phones in the ladies bathroom.

While bussing tables in the lobby area, 18-year-old Goingco chanced upon a plastic bag containing a watch reputedly worth more than P100,000. Goingco, a college freshman who recently stopped due to financial constraints, had an idea of the watch's value and did hesitate to surrrender this to the manager.

"Nagulat po ako na may nakakaiwan po pala ng ganoon. Pero hindi ako nanghinayang. Wala naman po sa kin yon eh. Part *lang po ng trabaho yon."*

"Jeng and Joweph have kept our customers' trust through their honesty and integrity. This is the same kind of trust McDonald's has been building with Filipinos for 25 years," said Melon Salazar, McDonald's VP for Operations.

One's personal worth

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE PERSONAL AND HEALING ENCOUNTER OF THE blind man, Bartimaeus, with Jesus in today's Gospel is so touching and inspiring for those who may find the world of work too harsh, impersonal and lacking in "human" touch.

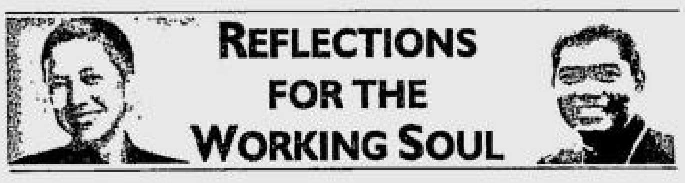
It gives hope to those who could not feel their worth as persons either because they fail to see and understand their personal and inner value and the deeper meaning of their acts, or because they are regarded or treated by their coworkers or employers as mere parts of the production system or even just as mere numbers in the formula for profit.

Even the positive goals of productivity, efficiency and excellence in work and service could many times be misunderstood as priority over and above the personal and human good of the workers; thus, work and the workplace could appear as oppressive and enslaving to the human person.

Yet, the humanity of everyone in the workplace longs for more than the technical, mechanical or even scientific elements in work which could ensure great output and productivity; it craves for the human and emotional side of work relationships which would satisfy inner feelings of personal worth and importance, and other psychological and spiritual needs of the human person.

Thus, the personal gestures of managers and supervisors towards their subordinates such as asking about how their wife or children are or simply greeting them with a smile, would "make the day" for the simple workers.

When everyone, like Jesus, would show genuine interest and concern for every person's inner value and not just for what he can do or produce for the company, the workplace could become a pleasant, human and fulfilling experience. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)



REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Imitating a blind man

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

HOW MAY THE FAITH OF THE BLIND MAN Bartimaeus embolden an ordinary worker to advance his cause in this high-tech age of ours? This gutsy beggar reminds me of Mang Carding, an all-around handyman in a printing press. A self-taught worker, he could be counted on to fix any leaking faucets, busted transformers, broken doors, flat tires, etc. Whenever anything conked out, everybody would think of Mang Carding first before hiring a skilled technician. For all the magic this high school graduate could do with a screwdriver, a wrench, or a hammer, Mang Carding then got a pay lower than a Forbes Park domestic helper.

One day, against the advice of his fellow workers, he approached the personnel manager and asked about the possibility of a salary increase. To everyone's surprise (including Mang Carding's), he got it—a 25-percent raise—barely a week after he asked. They marveled at the fact that what would take labor union leaders years to obtain, Mang Carding got in a week. What did it?

Mang Carding didn't know Bartimaeus from Adam, but unwittingly he imitated the blind man: he courageously cried out to Christ, expressed his desire to see, and respectfully addressed Jesus "Master." Mang Carding simply told the Personnel Manager that he was having great difficulty making both ends meet and that he was thinking of just working freelance as a neighborhood handyman. What's more, he was respectful to the manager in presenting his case—a far cry from the worker who with clenched fists would demand benefits while insulting his employers by name-calling. Truly, even in a "godless" age, honesty and humility can still move mountains. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel. Mark 10: 46-52

He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"

UNDP

The UNDP project "Piloting a Pro-Poor Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model in Water Service Delivery" is in search of qualified candidates for the posts of Business Development Expert and Legal Expert to be based at the STREAMS for Knowledge Foundation in Cubao, Quezon City.

The project intends to pilot a model of tripartite partnership to improve access to safe water coverage to urban poor communities.

Business Development Expert – 1 man-month spread over 2 months

Duties and Responsibilities:

Specific Activities

1. Participate in the identification of possible commercial arrangements of water service delivery appropriate for Lupang Arenda
2. Develop the PPP business or investment plan to support small and medium-scale water service delivery business ventures in the project area, which will also involve the identification and mapping potential funding sources

Qualifications :

1. Must be a graduate of a 4-year course
2. Possess a thorough understanding of the SSWPs and water service provision business
3. Actual or hands-on experience in developing and operating a small-scale water business and related ventures
4. Experience in creating strategic alliances / tie-ups, new business opportunities would be an advantage

Legal Expert – 1 man-month spread over 2 months

Duties and Responsibilities:

Specific Activities

1. Review, assess and analyze the current legal and institutional aspects of public – private partnership as it relates and impacts the water service delivery to poor and informal communities
2. Recommend on the legal issues pertaining to the ideal regulatory framework for SSWP engagement
3. Recommend and provide legal opinion on the most appropriate PPP option/s for the project based on criteria or parameters
4. Prepare draft terms of reference (TOR) for the tender and contracts for the preferred PPP option
5. Prepare the institutional enhancement plan to support SSWP development

Qualifications :

1. Bachelor of Laws degree and member of the Bar with at least 3 – 5 years experience
2. Highly knowledgeable on the Philippine water sector situation and the different laws, rules and regulations
3. Well-versed PPP laws, rules and regulations
4. Preferably with working experience in water tariff setting, cross boundaries
5. Working knowledge in the preparation of contracts, tender and bid processes would be an advantage

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

While the project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 7 November 2006. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (63 2) 901 0100.

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/23 October 2006

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- Candidate must possess at least a bachelor's/college degree in any field
- At least 3 years experience in related field in supervisory capacity
- Must be analytical, dependable, diplomatic and self-motivated
- With excellent communication skills

CUSTOMER CARE SPECIALIST

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- Must be proficient in written and verbal communication in the Japanese and English languages

FEMALE KOREAN NATIONAL

- Preferably, graduate of any four-year course
- With at least 1 year work experience, preferably with frequent interaction with foreign clients and companies
- Must be proficient in written and verbal communication in the Korean and English languages

Interested applicants can mail their comprehensive resumé with recent 2X2 colored picture to:

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With a combined workforce of over **4,000 global employees** and team members, this partnership intends to grow **15 times in the next 5 years**. We firmly believe the Philippines is THE most logical choice to support our rapid expansion, and we are relying heavily on the dedicated, loyal, and naturally talented Filipino to achieve this goal. With this vision we are looking for the TOP GUNS in the field, those with the desire to become LEADERS.

We offer a work environment that promotes creativity, teamwork, advancement, mutual achievement of goals, and a strong commitment to corporate values and CULTURE. Our company culture creates opportunities for personal and professional growth, encourages team members to become team players, individuals to become leaders, and leaders to become role models to direct the next generation.

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Female, with 4 to 5 years working experience, Graduate of any four (4) year course, knowledgeable in legal matters, willing to be assigned in Samar.

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BSCE Graduate, Must be licensed, Male or Female, Single, With 3 years experience. Willing to be assigned in Samar, Knowledgeable in horizontal planning.

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BSCE Graduate, Must be licensed, Female, Single, With 3 to 5 years experience. Willing to be assigned in Samar, Knowledgeable in quantity estimate and billing preparation of foreign-assisted project.

OFFICE ENGINEERS (CIVIL ENGINEER)

BSCE Graduate, Must be licensed, Female, Single, With 2 years experience, with Pleasing Personality.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

BSA Graduate, Female, Single, With 2 years experience, with Pleasing Personality.

LIAISON OFFICER

Female, with or without working Experience, Graduate of any four (4) year course, with pleasing personality.

Qualified applicants may submit personally their application letter, resumé, transcript of record and 2x2 picture to:

MS. ANALYN M. MALLARI
Rm. 1801 18th Flr. Atlanta Centre, Annapolis St.
Greenhills, San Juan, M. Mla.
Tel. No.: (02) 721-5168 or 69
Fax No.: (02) 721-5159

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LICENSED PHARMACIST

- Male or Female
- Must be at least 22 to 35 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Computer literate
- Preferably w/ 1 year experience in BFAD Regulatory Affairs

Interested applicants may call Tel. No. 824-46-47 & 823-11-04, during office hours 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday & ask for Vicky.

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Male/Female not more than 27 years old. Graduate of Accountancy. Must be computer literate and willing to work long hours.

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INVOICING CLERK / CASHIER / TELEMARKETER

Female, not more than 25 years. Graduate of any four year course, computer literate, customer/people-oriented, with pleasing personality. Willing to work long hours. Experience is not necessary.

Interested applicants may personally apply with resume, latest 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the:

Human Resources Management and Admin. Dept.

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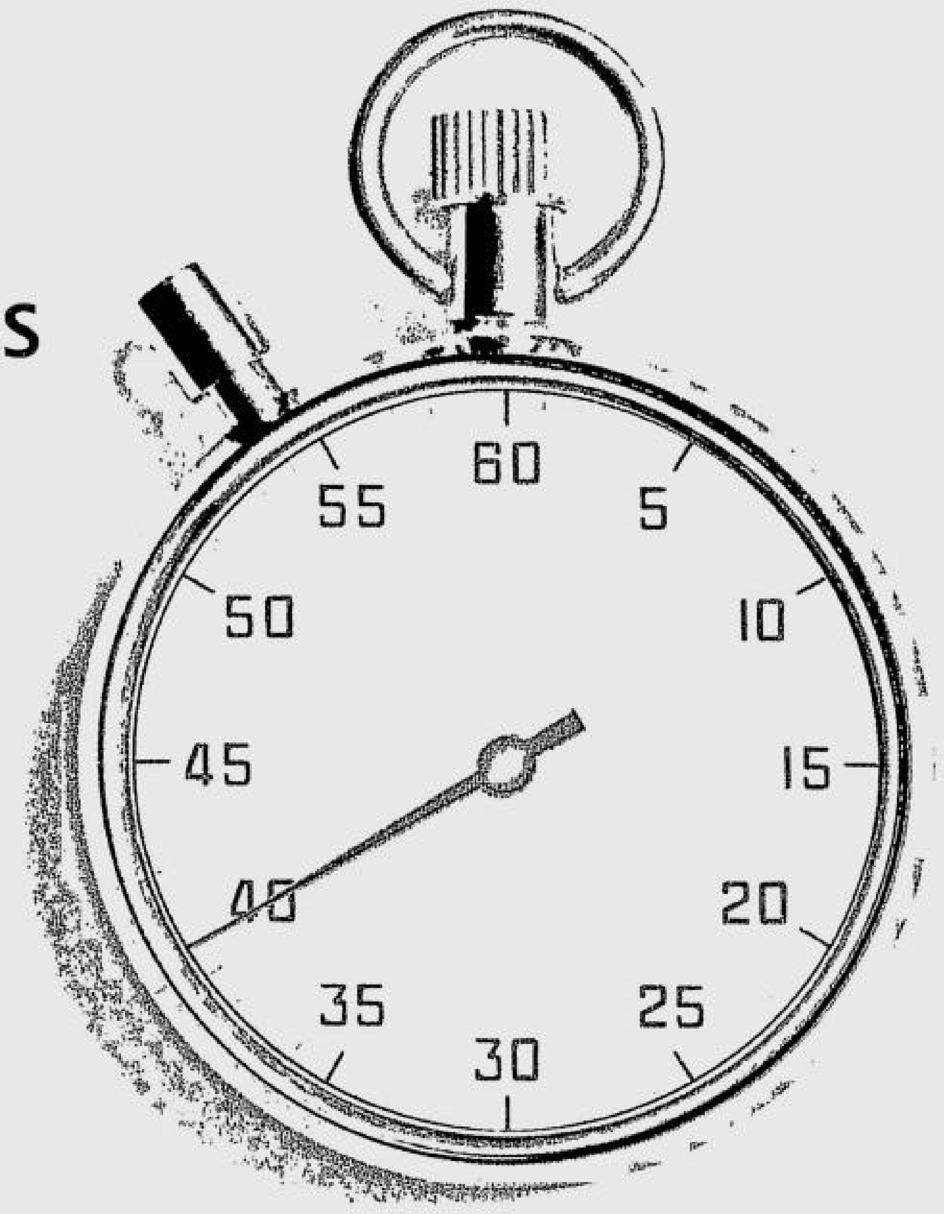

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OCTOBER 29, 2006

1

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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES

TULUNGAN SI HALLOWEEN JACK NA HANAPIN ANG KANYANG NAWAWALANG AGIMAT! NOVEMBER 1-30, 2006 HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH SARAP DITO!

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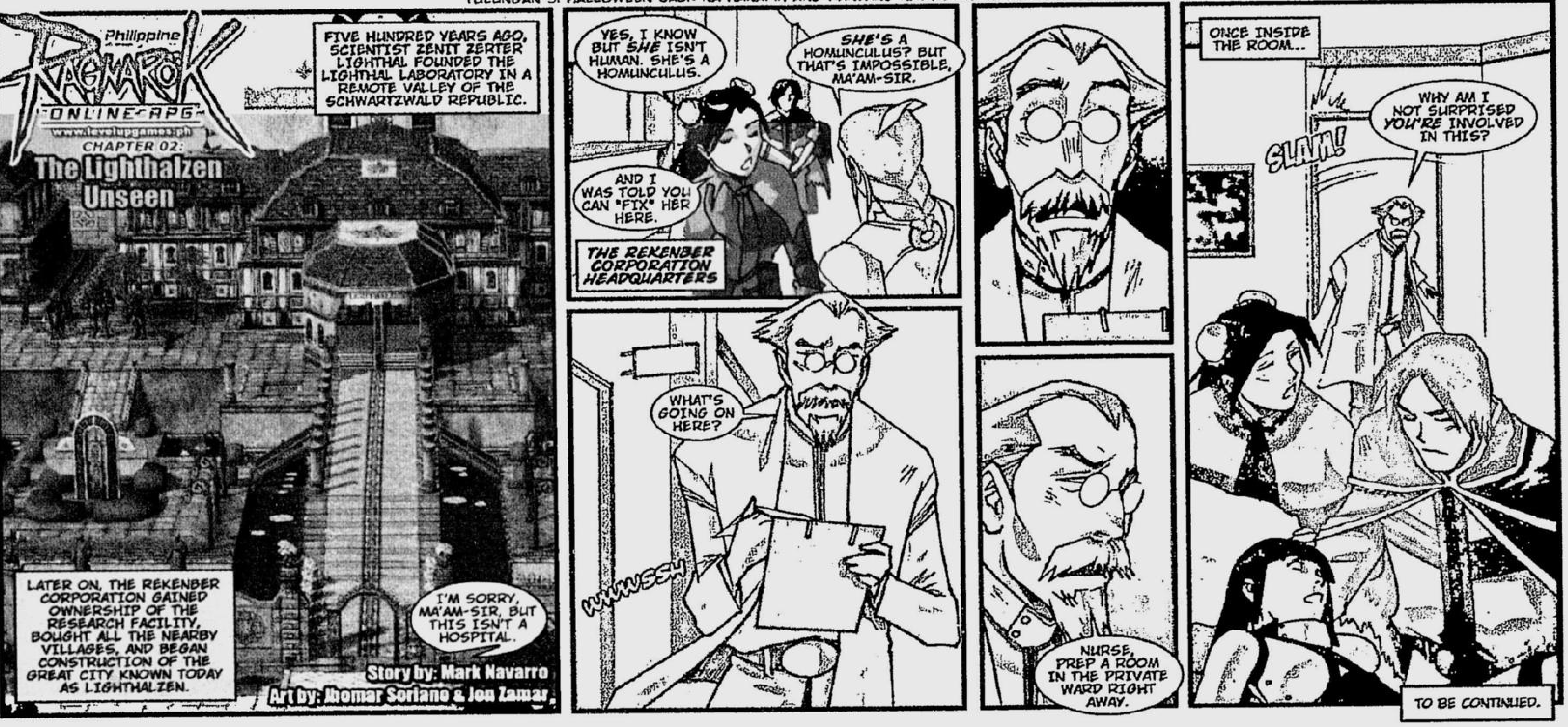
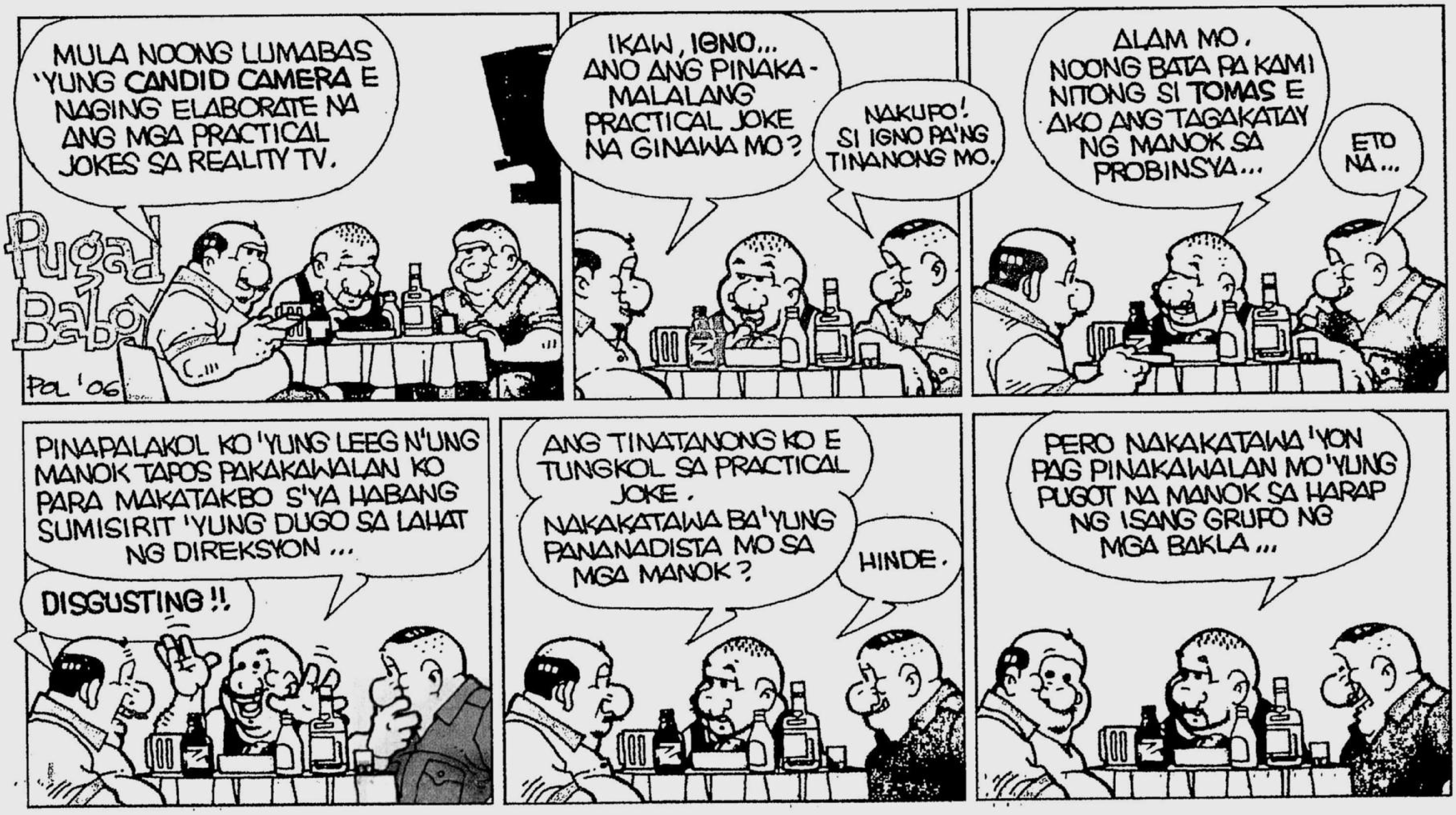

Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE-RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 02:
The Lighthalzen Unseen
FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, SCIENTIST ZENIT ZERTER LIGHTHAL FOUNDED THE LIGHTHAL LABORATORY IN A REMOTE VALLEY OF THE SCHWARTZWALD REPUBLIC.
LATER ON, THE REKENBER CORPORATION GAINED OWNERSHIP OF THE RESEARCH FACILITY, BOUGHT ALL THE NEARBY VILLAGES, AND BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE GREAT CITY KNOWN TODAY AS LIGHTHALZEN.
I'M SORRY, MA'AM-SIR, BUT THIS ISN'T A HOSPITAL.
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Jon Zamar
YES, I KNOW BUT SHE ISN'T HUMAN. SHE'S A HOMUNCULUS.
SHE'S A HOMUNCULUS? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, MA'AM-SIR.
AND I WAS TOLD YOU CAN "FIX" HER HERE.
THE REKENBER CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WWWSSH
NURSE, PREP A ROOM IN THE PRIVATE WARD RIGHT AWAY.
ONCE INSIDE THE ROOM...
SLAM!
WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS?
TO BE CONTINUED.

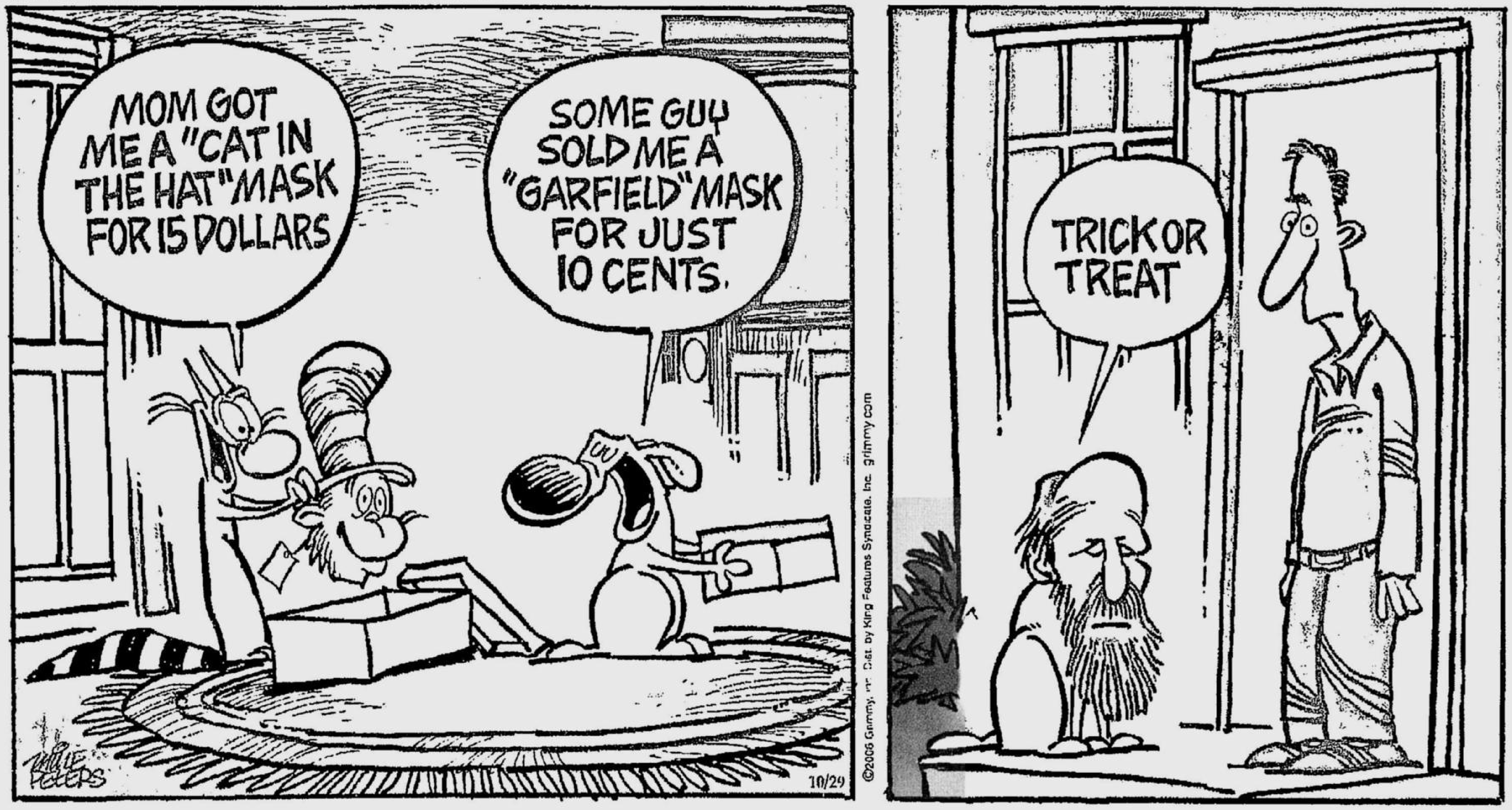
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


MULA NOONG LUMABAS 'YUNG CANDID CAMERA E NAGING ELABORATE NA ANG MGA PRACTICAL JOKES SA REALITY TV.
Pugad Baboy
POL '06
IKAW, IGNO... ANO ANG PINAKA-MALALANG PRACTICAL JOKE NA GINAWA MO?
NAKUPO! SI IGNO PA'NG TINANONG MO.
ALAM MO, NOONG BATA PA KAMI NITONG SI TOMAS E AKO ANG TAGAKATAY NG MANOK SA PROBINSYA...
ETO NA...
PINAPALAKOL KO 'YUNG LEEG N'UNG MANOK TAPOS PAKAKAWALAN KO PARA MAKATAKBO S'YA HABANG SUMISIRIT 'YUNG DUGO SA LAHAT NG DIREKSYON...
DISGUSTING!!
ANG TINATANONG KO E TUNGKOL SA PRACTICAL JOKE.
NAKAKATAWA BA 'YUNG PANANADISTA MO SA MGA MANOK?
HINDE.
PERO NAKAKATAWA 'YON PAG PINAKAWALAN MO 'YUNG PUGOT NA MANOK SA HARAP NG ISANG GRUPO NG MGA BAKLA...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MOM GOT ME A "CAT IN THE HAT" MASK FOR 15 DOLLARS
SOME GUY SOLD ME A "GARFIELD" MASK FOR JUST 10 CENTS.
TRICK OR TREAT
MIKE PETERS
10/29

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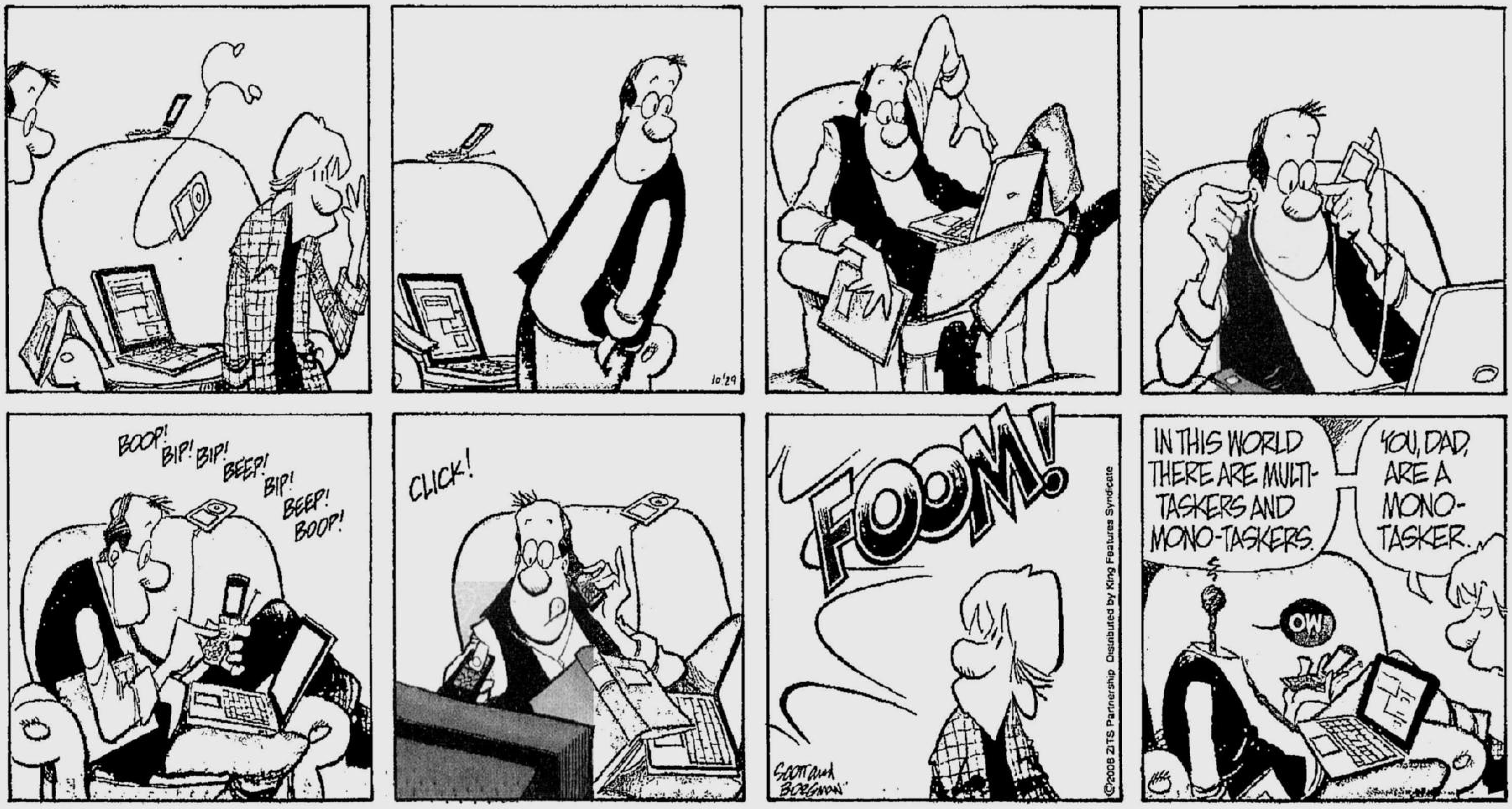
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


10/29
BOOP! BIP! BIP! BEEP! BIP! BEEP! BOOP!
CLICK!
FOOOM!
SCOTT and BORGMAN
IN THIS WORLD THERE ARE MULTI-TASKERS AND MONO-TASKERS.
YOU, DAD, ARE A MONO-TASKER.
OW!

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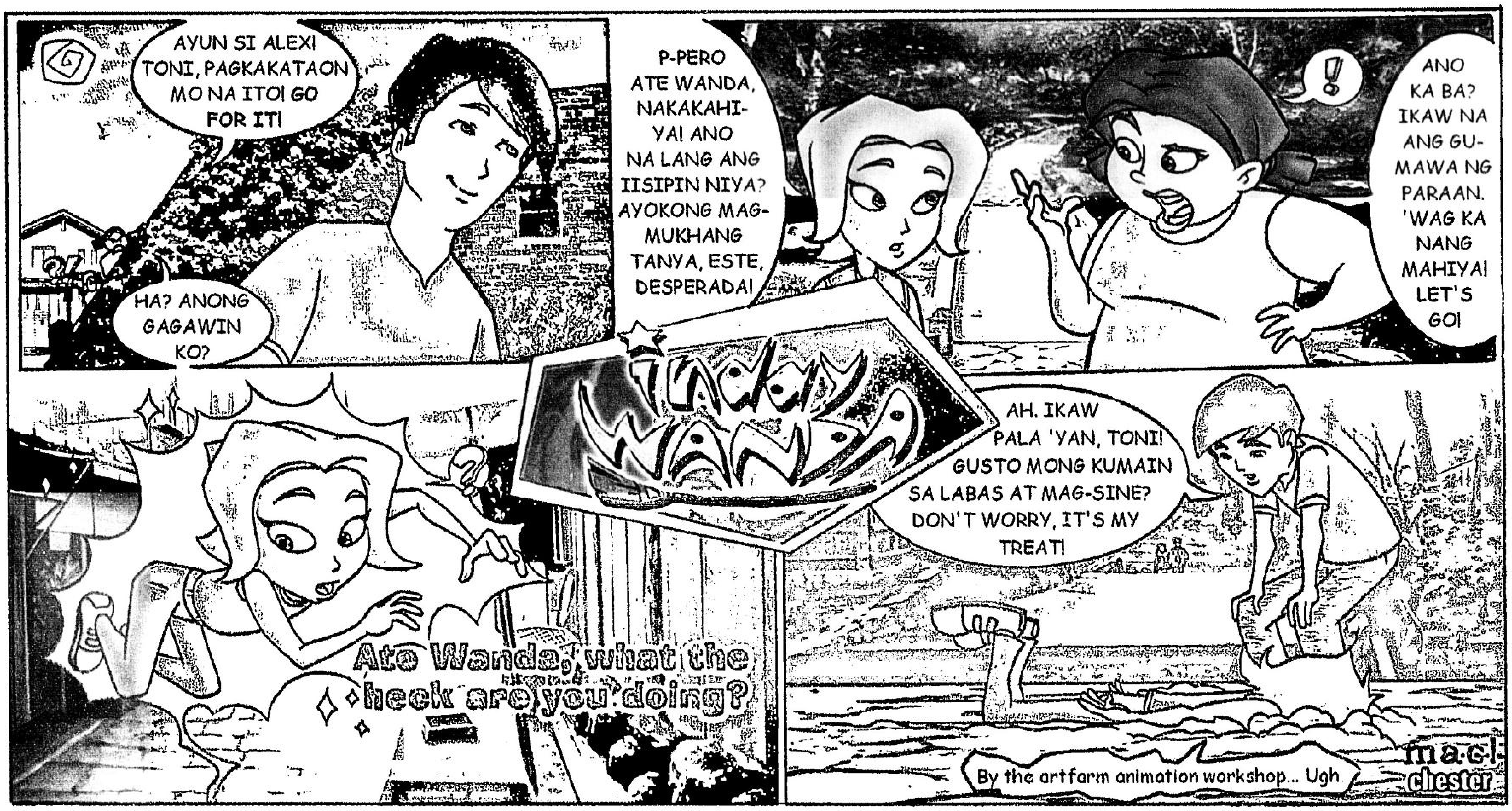
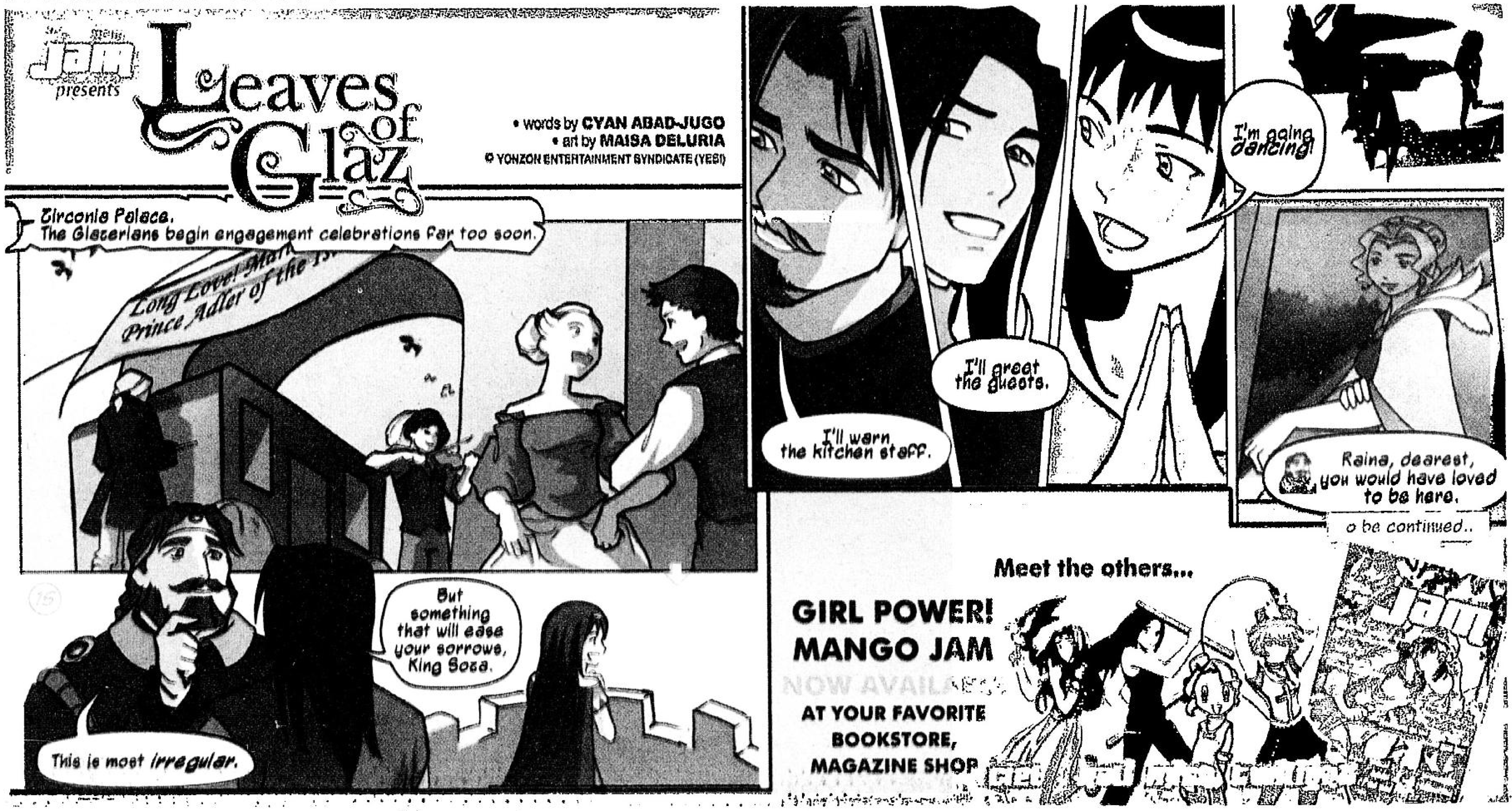
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


AYUN SI ALEX! TONI, PAGKAKATAON MO NA ITO! GO FOR IT!
HA? ANONG GAGAWIN KO?
P-PERO ATE WANDA, NAKAKAHIYA! ANO NA LANG ANG IISIPIN NIYA? AYOKONG MAGMUKHANG TANYA, ESTE, DESPERADA!
!
ANO KA BA? IKAW NA ANG GUMAWA NG PARAAN. 'WAG KA NANG MAHIYA! LET'S GO!
Inday Wanda
Ate Wanda, what the heck are you doing?
AH. IKAW PALA 'YAN, TONI! GUSTO MONG KUMAIN SA LABAS AT MAG-SINE? DON'T WORRY, IT'S MY TREAT!
By the artfarm animation workshop... Ugh
mac-l chester

LEAVES OF GLAZ

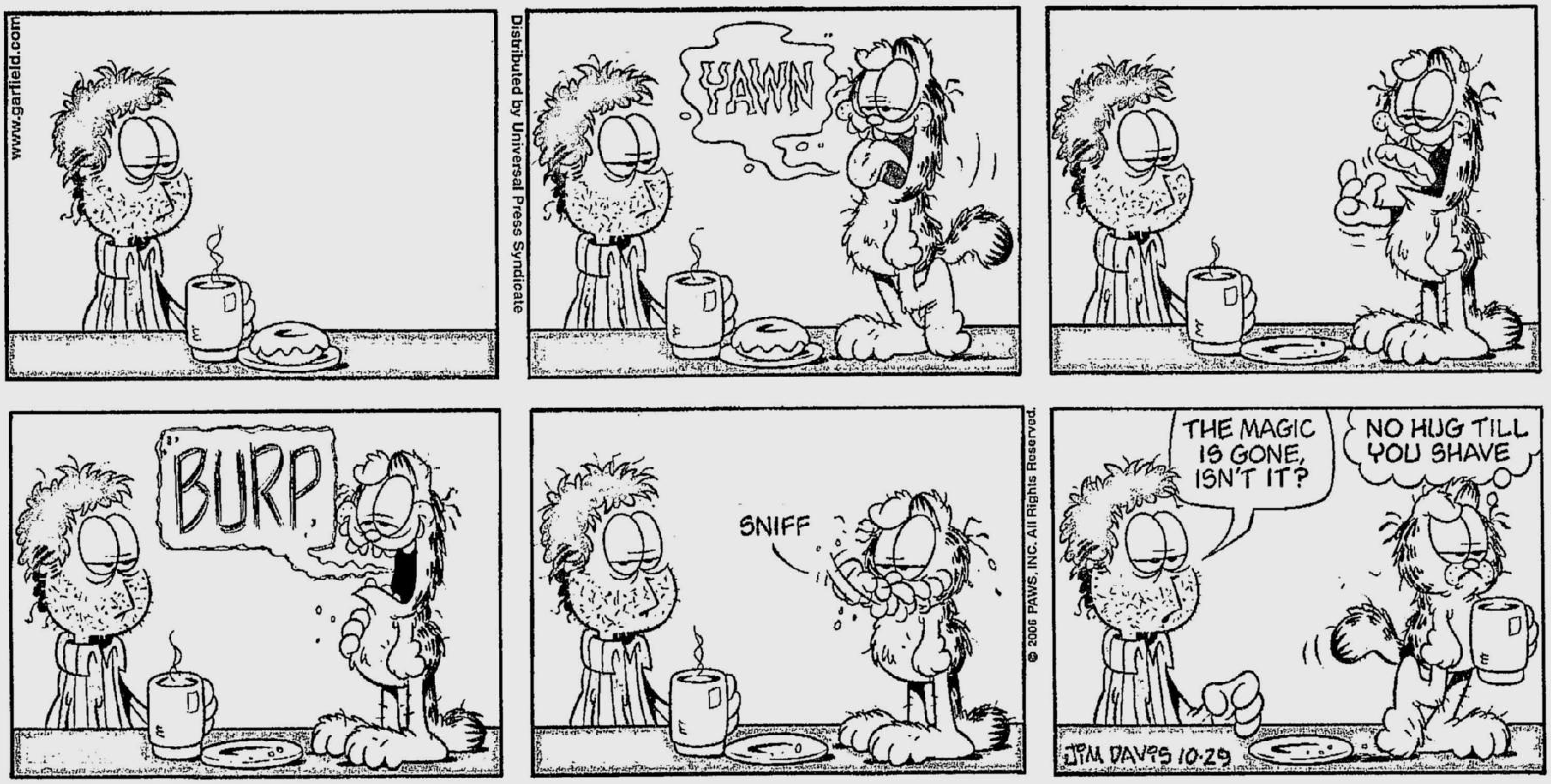
BY MANGO COMICS


Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
• words by CYAN ABAD-JUGO
• art by MAISA DELURIA
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YESI)
Zirconia Palace.
The Glazerians begin engagement celebrations far too soon.
Long Love! Mar
Prince Adler of the Is
15
This is most irregular.
But something that will ease your sorrows, King Soza.
I'll warn the kitchen staff.
I'll greet the guests.
I'm going dancing!
Raina, dearest, you would have loved to be here.
o be continued..
Meet the others...
Jam

GIRL POWER!
MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILA
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE,
MAGAZINE SHOP

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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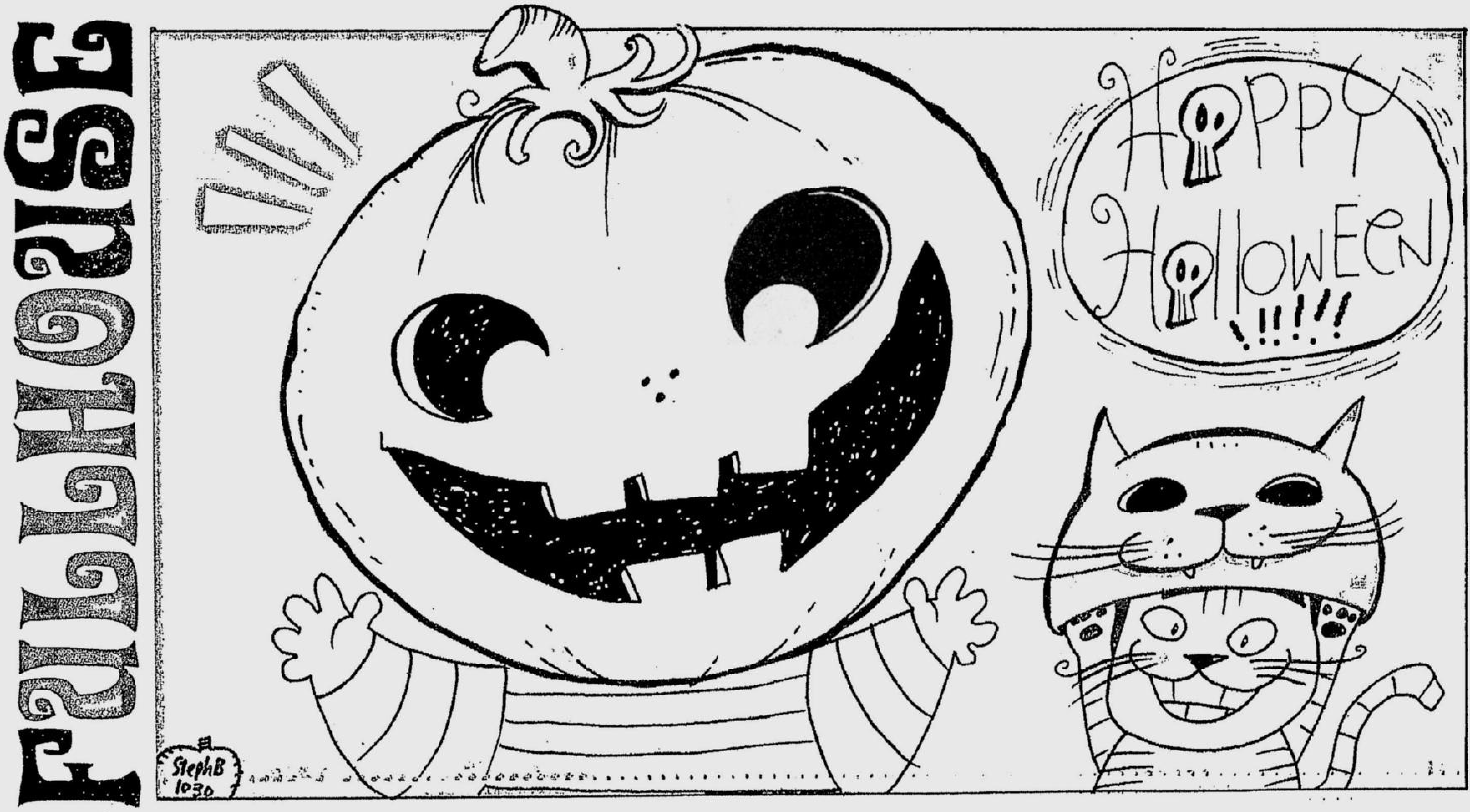
SNIFF
THE MAGIC IS GONE, ISN'T IT?
NO HUG TILL YOU SHAVE
JIM DAVIS 10-29

FULL HOUSE

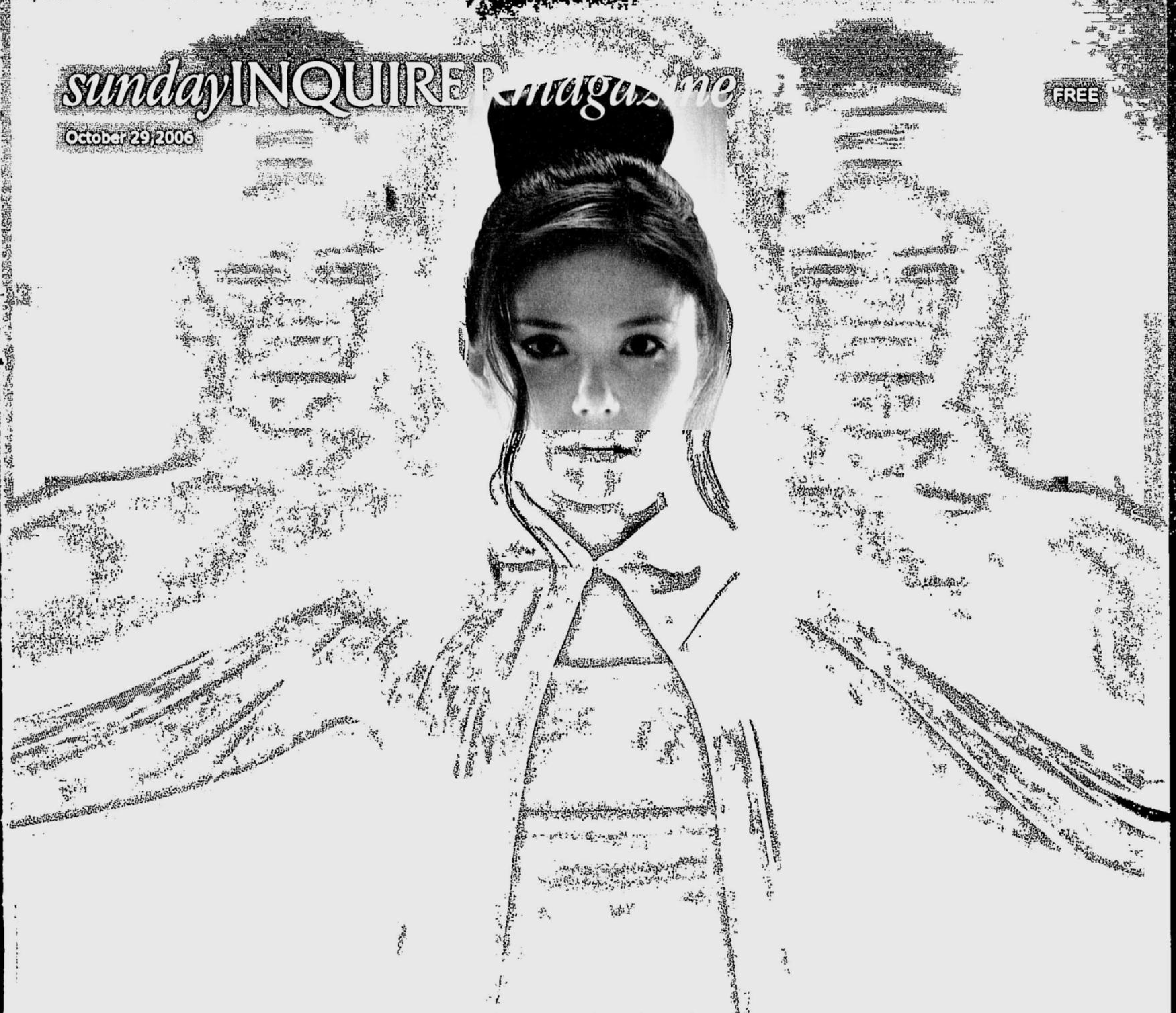
BY STEPH BRAVO


FULLHOUSE
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!!!
StephB 1030

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

October 29, 2006

FREE

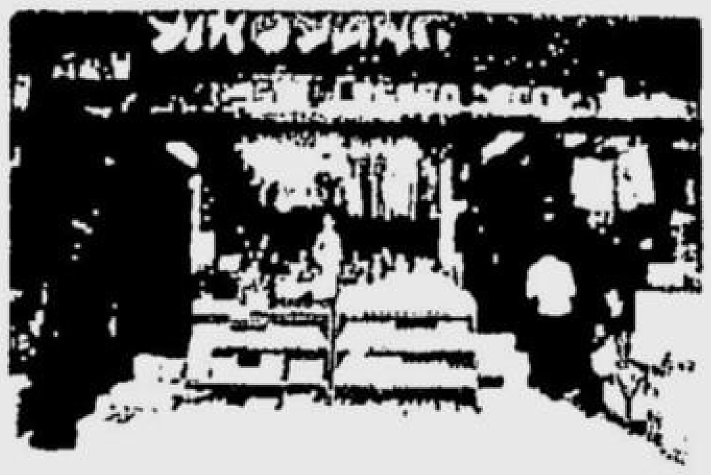


LIGHT SPIRIT

TV actress and model Isabel Oli leaves behind a childhood trauma to shine in GMA's mega-budget fantaserye "Atlantika"

plus 4 Must-Do's Before You Die • The Real Pinoy Exorcist • Possessed? Haunted? Your Ghostbusting 911 • One-Stop Feng Shui Shop • Behind the Scenes of "Atlantika," and more...

By **Eric S. Caruncho**
Photographs by Ryan Lim



Thriving trade in charms amulets and deities in the heart of Sta Cruz, Manila

Wanna Buy Luck?

Welcome to downtown Manila's feng shui emporium, where good fortune has a price tag

TAKE a walk down Ongpin or Avenida, and you can't avoid them: Every few steps you'll find sidewalk vendors, little storefronts or full-blown bazaars selling feng shui charms and amulets in all shapes and sizes, from a miniature "money frog," to figurines of Kuan Yin and Kuan Kong, the Chinese goddess of mercy and god of war, to all manner golden gewgaws meant to attract wealth and good fortune.

Once the province of "new age" society matrons and mysterious and inscrutable grand masters, feng shui—the ancient Chinese art of geomancy—has finally trickled down to the masses.

Now it's hard to find a fast-food joint or *ukay-ukay* emporium without a *maneki neko*, the Japanese beckoning cat, at the cash register. (The figure of a cat with upraised paw is said to attract customers, and hence profits.) Very likely, there'll also be a *ba gua*, the octagonal mirror bearing the eight trigrams of Chinese cosmology, nailed above the door to ward off bad luck, and for good measure, a few wind chimes overhead to help balance the *chi* or energy of the place.

"It started with the Chinese who started coming here from the mainland to sell feng shui charms on the sidewalks," says Ben Borras, proprietor of Yin Yang Feng Shui Charms and Decors, a veritable feng shui emporium on Bustos St., just a stone's throw from the Sta. Cruz church.

"The problem was, they couldn't explain what the charms were for or how to use them because their Filipino was very limited," he continues. "That's why we set up this store three years ago."
A pharmacist by training, Borras says he became interested in feng shui partly because of his ancestry (his father being a Chinese mestizo), partly because he grew up near Chinatown. After a period of study and research, he opened Yin Yang with a partner, Manny Chua.

(continued on page 4)

Figure It Out

PDI FILE

24.09: Crude birth rate for 2005 per thousand persons

5.60: Crude death rate for 2005 per thousand persons

P50,000: The cheapest burial package at Loyola Memorial Chapels; includes transport, four days' viewing, embalming, and a wooden casket.

PDI RESEARCH

(continued on page 15)

JOIN THE MORE ENERVON MAS HAPPY PROMO FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

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MULTIVITAMINS

ENERVON

Wanna Buy Luck? (from page 2)

"My shop is different in that I carry small items so they're not that expensive," he says. "Second, I want the customers to understand what they're buying, so we put up labels that they can read so they'll know the purpose, and not just blindly use a feng shui item."

Apart from the usual feng shui charms, Borras' shop also carries a large selection of votive candles and incense, as well as an eclectic selection of images ranging from Kuan Yin and Kuan Kong to Ganesh, the elephant-headed Hindu god of luck and prosperity, to various buddhas and mandalas from Tibet.

Although most feng shui shops are just that, Yin Yang also has a votive altar to various Buddhist, Taoist and Hindu deities. Customers are encouraged to have their amulets blessed by kneeling, lighting three joss sticks and bowing three times while praying for their intentions.

"There are two schools of feng shui," says Borras. "One school distances itself from religion; it only concerns itself with fixing a home, correcting structures, changing rooms and directions. The other school mixes in religion; they believe that there are spirits which can help, so we have Buddhist images here and we ask them to have their charms blessed. If there is a conflict with their religious beliefs, we try to explain that just as there are saints in the Catholic faith, these are saints of Chinese origin. If you can ask for help from Lorenzo Ruiz, you can also ask for help from these Chinese saints."

Judging from the number of customers waiting their turn to have their purchases blessed, many Filipinos are at the very least willing to give it a shot. After all, if it helps stack the psychic odds in their favor, why not? •

ARE YOU PREPARED TO DIE?

Here's a checklist of questions you should have answers to so you don't leave a mess behind

1. Do you have a will?

This is to ensure that any property you have ends up with the people who deserve it after you're gone. Make a valid will, which means you should be at least 18 and of sound mind at the time you made the will. Only persons, not corporations or partnerships, can make a will. Married women don't need their husband's consent to make one.

Make sure everything is in writing, and in correct form. For a notarial will, you have to sign on the left margin of every page, and must have three qualified witnesses who personally saw you sign the papers. If it's a holographic will, it should be written, dated and signed entirely in the person's handwriting, and done freely, voluntarily and with full knowledge of the testator or will-maker.

Choose only qualified witnesses: at least 18 years old, of sound mind, not blind, deaf or dumb, and able to read and write. Persons not living in the country and those who have been convicted of falsification of documents, perjury, or false testimony are disqualified.

You may hate their guts, but spouses, children, grandchildren, siblings and other relatives are considered compulsory heirs as defined by law, although they can be disinherited for legal cause. Among the grounds for disinheritance are being found guilty of: maltreatment or attempt to kill the will-maker and his close relatives; adultery or concubinage with the spouse of the will-maker; fraud, intimidation or undue influence that causes the will-maker to change a will already made, and in the case of parents, abandonment of the children.

Illegitimate children are considered compulsory heirs, although in general, their share is only half that of legitimate children. Legally adopted children are considered legitimate as well and have full rights of inheritance.

If you change your mind and want to revoke your will, you can do so in writing with the help of a lawyer, though the easiest way is to burn, tear and cancel every copy that you've made. *(Source: Civil Code of the Philippines)*

2. Do you have a memorial plan?

Often overlooked until it is urgently needed, memorial plans are useful for two main reasons. As Loyola Plans' Michael C. Aquino notes, a memorial or life plan consolidates your tasks after the death of a loved one. When a family suffers a loss,

continued on page

Are You Prepared To Die? (from page 4)

they will have to deal with the following agencies individually: funeral parlor (for transportation, embalming, etc.), chapels (for wakes and viewings), and memorial parks (interment), among others.

Without a funeral plan, families need to make arrangements individually. These services do not come cheap, particularly the coffin and the memorial plot, which can easily run into the hundreds of thousands of pesos. You can skip purchasing a lot if you get a cremation plan. Some memorial plans even provide a service or administrator who handles all the details. Furthermore, a memorial plan enables you to pay for all these on an installment basis, allowing an individual to regularly make small payments over a long period of time, instead of the large outlays of money required at the time of loss.
Memorial plans are also useful in that they are transferable. Take note that memorial plans are usually available only to individuals "of good health" from 18 to 65.

3. Do you have life insurance?
This is something to consider if you want to leave something behind for someone, or for a worthy cause. Theoretically, anybody can get life insurance, from a newborn baby to somebody as old as 70. "But in the latter case, the premium can cost between P100,000 and P200,000 a year, depending on the amount of coverage and state of health of the insured," says certified financial planner Malu Babia of Philam Life-AIG.

The insured must always name a beneficiary. To claim the money after your death, the claimant must submit a death certificate and birth certificate of the deceased, a certification by a doctor of the cause of death, and, to prove relationships, a copy of the marriage certificate (if the claimant is a spouse) and a birth certificate (if it's any of the children). There are other minor documents that the insurance company will ask for, but provided this is all in place, the money can be released in one to two weeks. Remember, insurance won't pay if you commit suicide, or if investigations prove that you are the victim of a premeditated murder—in which case your beneficiaries may become suspects!

4. Can your relatives get your money out of the bank after you're dead?
According to a bank officer, who requested anonymity, there's a slew of documents that your relatives have to prepare when you die. If the amount is below P50,000, they will need a letter of claim addressed to the bank; a certified true copy of your death certificate; a deed of extrajudicial settlement signed by all the heirs if there's more than one of them, and affidavit of self-ajudication if you're a sole heir; an affidavit of quit claim with indemnity undertaking to release the bank from any liability; a certified true copy of a marriage contract if survived by a spouse, and a birth certificate if survived by children.
If the amount is above P50,000, you will also need a true copy of an heir's bond, taken out with an insurance company, and the extrajudicial settlements that must be registered with the registrar of deeds. After all that, you have to submit an affidavit of publication of the notice of death for two weeks, as well as a certificate from the Bureau of Internal Revenue stating that the estate tax has been paid. Sounds daunting, but a lawyer can take care of all these in a few days, the bank officer says.
All these can be avoided if you leave a registered will, in which case the claimant can skip all the extrajudicial paperwork and just pay the tax. Unofficially, the officer hints, what is most often done in the case of a joint account is that the surviving co-depositor delays notifying the bank of the death, and withdraws the money. Whatever the case, it pays to be chummy with your neighborhood bank manager. •

"Devil, come out!"

Four ways to tell if you're Linda Blair material

PDI FILE

YOUR head doesn't have to spin 360° for you to need an exorcist, but it helps. In his recently-launched book, "Exorcism: Encounters with the Paranormal and the Occult," Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia reveals other symptoms of true spirit possession:

1. Psychiatric manifestation similar to psychiatric illnesses like a dual or split personality, hysteria, schizophrenia, paranoia, manic depression, sleep disturbances, amnesia, violent behavior and epilepsy;

2. Parapsychological phenomena, or manifestations of paranormal events both in the patient and within her vicinity, like displaying behavior not usually learned such as levitation, performing amazing acrobatic feats, being able to move objects without touching them, bodily and facial contortions, change of voice, seeing spirits, smelling unusual and unpleasant odors, speaking in Latin, having extraordinary strength, etc;

3. Aversion to the sacred, or a strong negative reaction to sacred persons, places, objects (holy water, the rosary, crucifix) and actions (prayers of deliverance), as manifested by blasphemous language, bouts of rage when near blessed objects or being prayed over, and the like.

4. The presence of surrounding events linked to the demonic at the start of the problem. Did the subject engage in occult practices such as playing the ouija board or spirit of the glass just before the manifestations of spirit possession? **PAC**

Text and photographs by **Margaux Salcedo**

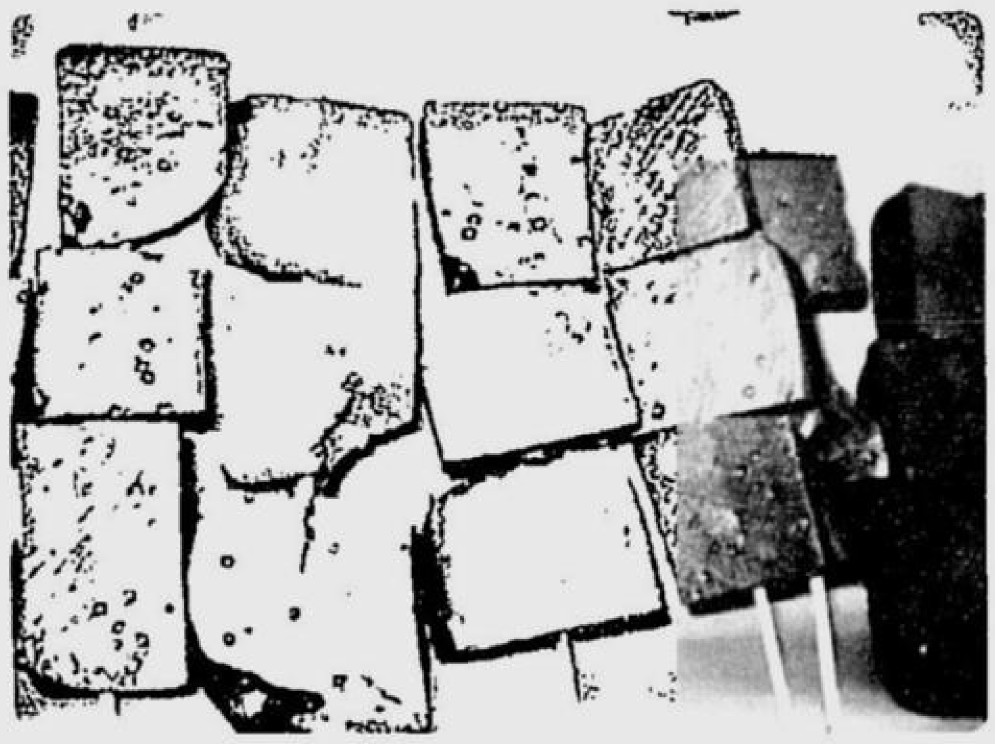
Here's what the cold-blooded crave for, from the pedestrian to the downright nasty

From the diary of Hannibal Lecter
29 October 2006
Manila, Philippines

Dear Clarice,

I began my Halloween celebration early and discovered some delightful treats around the streets of Manila. I am amazed at the creative ways by which people here eat their chicken and pig, making use of each animal part.

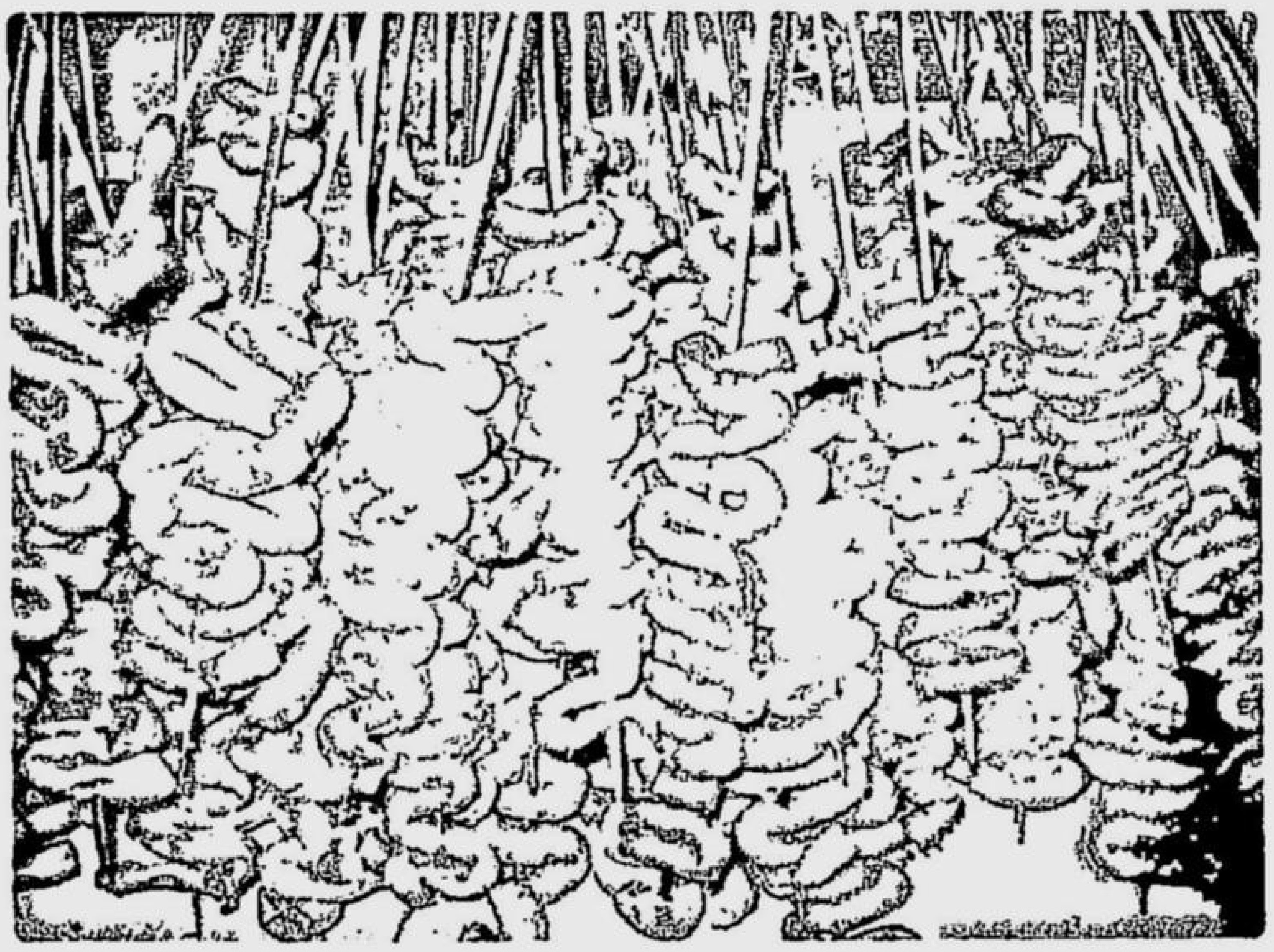
They eat chicken down to its feet. Rather crunchy, the grilled chicken feet is cleverly called Adidas, I gather in reference to the shoe brand. I am also told that in Binondo, where lies Chinatown, this delicacy is served steamed.



"Betamax," tasty pork blood cubes

I also fancy their efficiency with pork. They eat everything from the brain to the blood, and these dishes are considered delicacies. Pork blood is sold in the market and then chopped into cubes which the locals call Betamax, because they resemble those old video tapes we had back in the '80s. On the street, these are neatly placed on a stick to be grilled. It tastes very good, very soft, of course. Quite high in cholesterol, I gather, but very tasty.

They also eat pig's ears, which they plainly call *taenga*, the local word for ear. It reminds me of how I escaped from that Memphis cell when I helped you track down Buffalo Bill. The ears here, though, are harder to chew than fresh human ears, because they are thicker. I personally prefer that they grill it to a crunch, but the locals prefer it chewy. I am sending you some pictures.



"Soft and delicate." That's *bituka*

Now I am incredibly impressed with what they do with the insides of the pig. My favorite delicacy is something they call *bituka*, the intestines of the pig. But they also have *balun-balunan* or the innards, and *bato* or the kidneys. These are soft and delicate in the mouth, while the raw stench of the pig carcass remains strong, just the way I like it. In this country, though, these are cleaned first, then marinated, then grilled. Of course, you know I prefer all of these in the raw. Unfortunately, Filipinos are more civilized than that.

I was happily surprised to find all of these available on the street in the heart of the business district, Makati.

They eagerly shared with me how much they enjoy this kind of food. I think, with enough medication to keep me from feasting on humans, I would fit right in. I suppose I can get used to *dinuguan*, a pork blood stew, as a decent substitute for human blood.

For afternoon tea, I ducked into a little Pampangueño restaurant that served crickets. They call these *kamaru*, and they are cooked in vinegar and soy sauce and served in a bowl. The method of cooking, I understand, is called *inadobo*. It was quite salty but I enjoyed the feel of the crickets in my mouth.

I'm behaving rather well, Clarice. I might even make it through Halloween without killing anyone.

Take care,
H.

by Pe [illegible] lnl

Light Spirit

TV actress and model Isabel Oli leaves behind a childhood trauma to shine in GMA's mega-budget fantaserye "Atlantika"

SHE certainly projects herself well in the role of White Lady, but don't expect Isabel Oli to scream her lungs out watching a horror movie anytime soon.

"Ohhh, but they give me nightmares," says this caramel-skinned star of GMA-7's fantaserye, "Atlantika," of the one fear that she has allowed herself.

Her other fear—of deep water—she's had to discard when she took on the series about an underwater kingdom. "I was ready to back out when I learned that I had to dive, but the TV executives said they really wanted me in, so *gagawan daw nila ng paraan.* (they said they'll take care of things)." They did. After a month of training, Isabel learned to dive like a pro. "*Nilakasan ko na lang ang loob ko* (I steeled myself). I told myself, fear is not from God," says this Born-Again Christian who believes in eternal life and who's bound to be in a cemetery remembering her grandpa come November 1.

Her diving lessons have enabled her to look back on the near-drowning incident in her native Cebu with some amusement. "I was six or eight years old then and playing on the beach, when somebody dunked me in the water. I didn't know any better, raised my arms, and sank like a stone."

These days, things are going swimmingly. She's the face for such products as Myra E, Fly Eyewear, Sunsilk, PH Care, Globe, Fujifilm, Cream Silk and Kotex after her first big break as the waitress Isabel in the Max's ad; she's bagged TV roles in "*Sugo*," "It Might Be You," "I Luv NY," "Love to Love" and now, "Atlantika," landing countless TV appearances, and a role in the movie, "Moments of Love."

It seems a charmed life indeed for Olivia Daytia, the youngest of seven siblings born to a pure Chinese father and a Fil-Spanish mother. Her dad, a businessman, stays in Singapore with her mom and sisters, Isabel says, but her brothers are with her.

The Infotech graduate at the University of San Jose Recoletos in Cebu City had wanted to be a doctor, but discovered that she couldn't stand the sight of blood. Instead she decided to enroll for further studies in multi-media arts in Singapore, but SARS got in the way. Ramp modeling in Cebu and the movies didn't seem too bad after that.

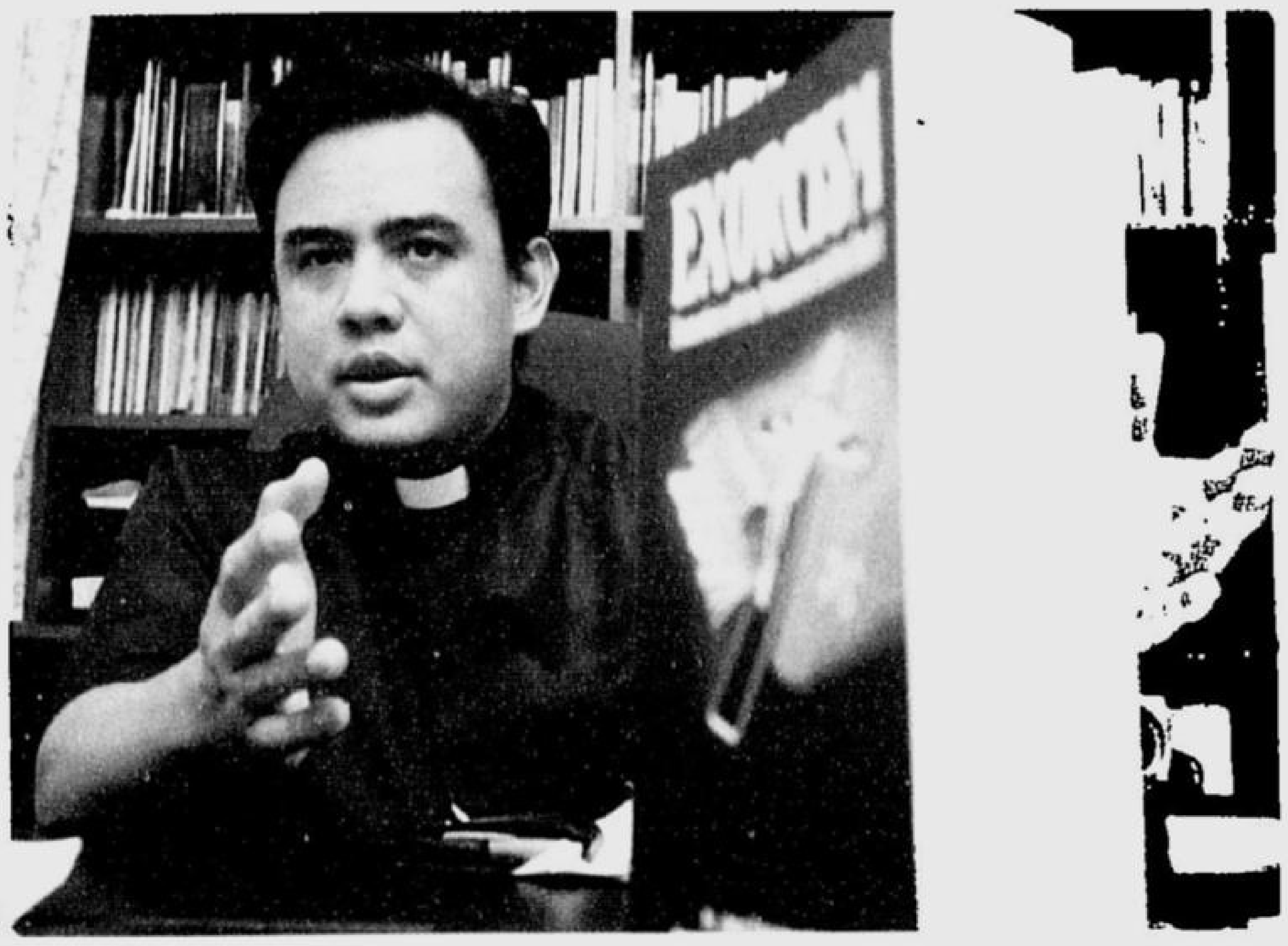
"I've always wanted to be a star, you know, to earn money," says Isabel. "But it's not that easy *pala*. I had to adjust a lot, especially with my thick Visayan accent. Now I'm learning Tagalog and thank God, I'm improving. Then there are the late hours, like taping from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. the next day. And the waiting! Half the time on the set is spent waiting. It's *nakakainis*, but also enjoyable because you make a lot of friends, just making *kwentuhan, tawanan*. Now that's the best perk of being in the movies—meeting all these new friends. The free gifts from sponsors come last."

Isabel, who says her dream roles are in romantic-comedies a la Meg Ryan or Michelle Pfeiffer, says she avoids the temptations in showbiz by focusing on her work. It helps that her family's fairly religious, she says.

Who You Gonna Call?

With our animist past and multicultural roots, it's no wonder Filipinos turn to priests—and then some—for their otherworldly concerns

The Church's ghostbuster



Ed

FOR Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia, dealing with the devil is more than just a matter of ministry; it's become a personal settling of scores.

The Director of the Archdiocese of Manila Office of Exorcism recalls battling the devil when he was 20, and a young graduate of AB Philosophy at the University of Sto. Tomas. "I started dabbling in parapsychology and Science of the Mind when, out of ignorance, I entered the occult. I crossed the line, and that's when the devil started harassing me," recounts Fr. Jocis, 39.

The devil hounded him in his dreams, and would choke and pin him down, he adds. "I sought help in my faith and the sacramentals, and after a few months, the nightmares stopped."

The experience prompted him to detour from a possible career in law and into the priesthood, says Fr. Jocis, who, although born to a wealthy family, became a student leader and a member of the militant League of Filipino Students.

"I tried to stay away from anything that had to do with the paranormal because I did not want the nightmares to recur. But when I was assigned as Bishop Teodoro Buhain's assistant in the Quiapo parish, I started encountering people deep into the occult, with all sorts of problems pointing to a demonic origin."

Filipinos seem to be particularly susceptible to the phenomena of demonic possession because our faith is still not that pure, says this official exorcist for the diocese of Metro Manila. "We still practice a lot of occult folk Catholicism and this includes subscribing to pre-Christian animist beliefs practiced by our ancestors. Some examples are the use of *anting-anting* (amulets) and magical rituals for protection, offering animal sacrifices for good luck, and going to the *manghuhula*."

Most instances of spirit possession are often referred to the neighborhood *herbolario* or occult practitioners, "which make them worse in the long run because true supernatural healing and deliverance can only be realized in and through Jesus," says the priest. He adds that some possessed people may be diagnosed as merely having a psychological illness and are packed off to mental institutions.

Fr. Jocis recalls how his mentor, the chief exorcist of the Vatican, Fr. Gabriel Amorth, who has dealt with some 20,000 cases of spirit possession in eight years, once went to a mental asylum and prayed over the inmates. "After the prayers, 1/3 of them were well enough to go home."

Which just goes to show how such episodes must be properly diagnosed. If there is demonic origin to the sickness, the victim must be healed through the grace of the sacraments and the use of the sacramentals. "Some people get healed and delivered even when I pray over them only in my mind. This shows that the problem is not merely psychological," says Fr. Jocis, who is also a full-time formator, spiritual director and professor at the San Carlos Major Seminary in Makati. **PAC**

When possessed by evil spirits: Is it an epileptic seizure, a mere fainting spell or a case of spirit possession? "A possession is the take-over of the evil spirit over the physical body of a person," says Fr. Jocis. Manifestations include psychiatric symptoms (hysteria, seizures, split personality), paranormal occurrences (levitation, superhuman strength), and aversion to the sacred (like holy water, rosaries, the scapular). If the criteria have been met, the family or friends of the possessed person can call the parish priest who can then pray over the person using the prayers of deliverance, and use sacramentals such as holy water, exorcised salt and exorcised oil. He may also bring the person to the Blessed Sacrament and have the victim wear the scapular of our Lady and the medal of St. Benedict. Those around should also pray the rosary and offer prayers to St. Michael in faith and trust while the priest prays over the victim.

In extreme cases, when the person gets really violent and there seems to be some difficulty in expelling the demon, the parish priest can contact the Office of Exorcism. The two priests

(continued on page 14)

Out On The Streets

"MOST of the people who come here already have problems, and they ask for solutions," says feng shui authority Ben Borras. "Many of them say, 'This year luck hasn't been that good for me' or 'business has been slow.'"

"In feng shui there are 12 zodiac signs, and for this year, the Year of the Dog, there are five zodiac signs that are unfavorable: Dragon, Ox, Rooster, Goat and Dog, so if you belong to one of those, we will try to help you with 'enhancers.' When you come here, we have a free feng shui consultation. By writing your name and birthday, we will know your zodiac sign and whether this year will be good, fair or poor for you. We will also find out your zodiac element and your kua number, which determines the lucky and unlucky directions for you.

"*Suerte* or luck in feng shui is based on the three principles: fate, which comes from heaven and is difficult to change, luck which comes from man, his ability to help himself, and earth luck, which is where feng shui comes in," says Borras. "There is the idea that when you change the earth luck, you also help man luck and heaven luck. You'll be needing the trinity of luck.

"People who come here for help sometimes lose hope, and through what little knowledge we have of feng shui, we try to help them understand their situation," he says. "That gives them confidence and hope, and that is the important thing about feng shui. To help the person have a more positive outlook on life and not be defeated by a pessimistic outlook." **ESC**

When possessed by evil spirits: Feng shui doesn' t really go into "*sapi*," but there is a branch of the Taoist religion which practices exorcism. You have to be a Taoist grand master to do this, because there are cases where a practitioner whose faith and energy are lacking will try to fight a case of "*sapi*," and he is defeated and becomes sick himself. It's better to let the specialists in exorcism handle it, because they are knowledgeable in this activity. Lay people shouldn't do this because sometimes the enemy is very powerful.

(continued on page 15)

Up In Smoke

CITA PAREDES, 53, didn't want to become a *magtatawas* (healer/spirit cleanser), but as the only child of *Aling* Goyang, a noted healer from Dumaguete who traced her ancestry back to the mystical island of Siquijor, she had no choice. "*Ayaw ko talaga noong una, pero tinuruan niya ako, mula noong pagkabata ko*" (I really didn't want it, but she started teaching me at an early age), she recounts. Latin prayers were transmitted orally and committed to memory, the papers on which they were written eventually burned to keep them from falling into the wrong hands.

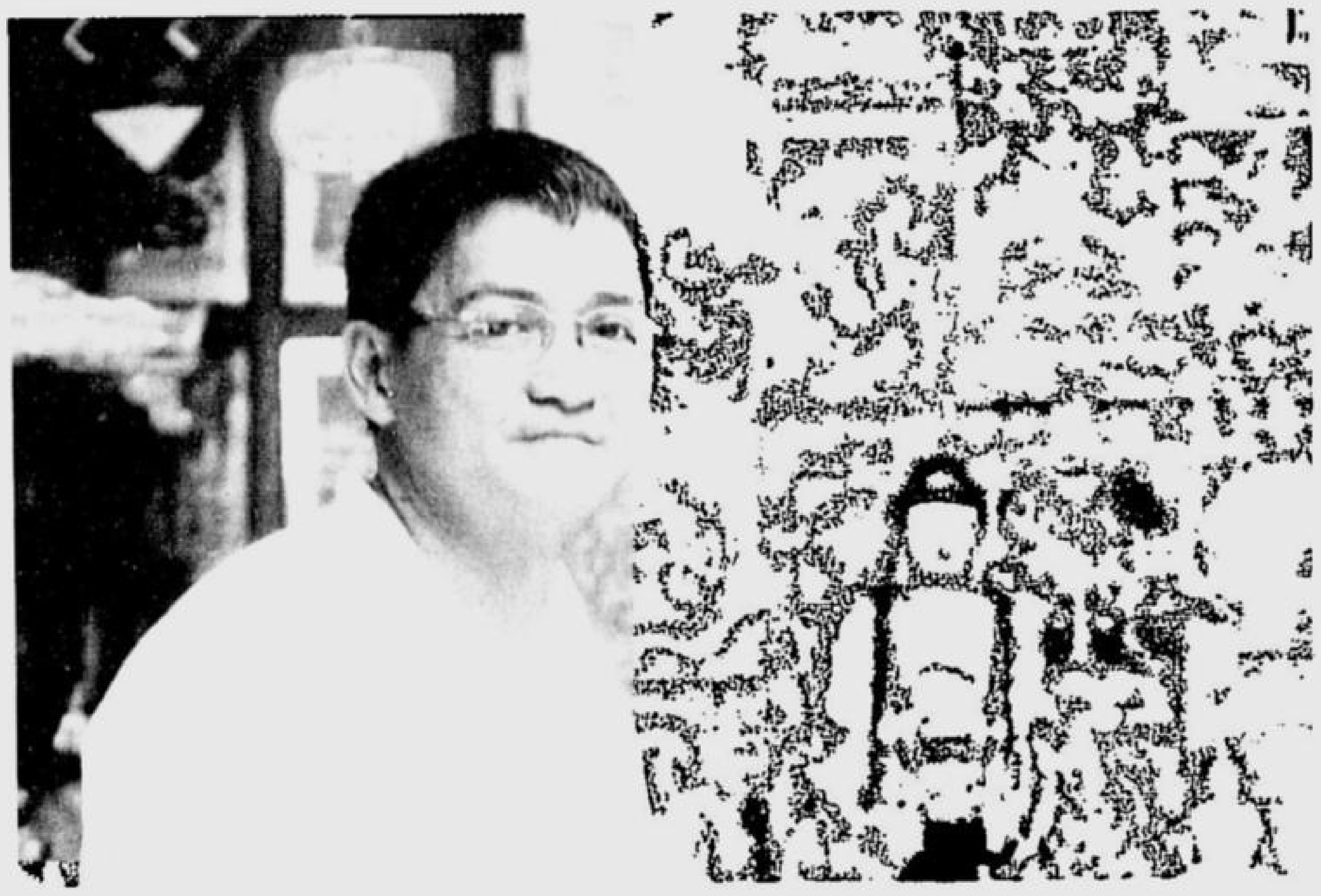
After *Aling* Goyang died nine years ago, Cita took over helping her mother's "customers," as she calls them, in their fight against "*yung mga hindi katulad natin*" (those who are not like us). These are the entities Cita intercedes with, serving as a conduit between people and the spirits they have wronged. Cita qualifies that she sticks to cleansing with *tawas* (alum crystals) and praying for her customers, as well as advising them on how to make reparations with spirits they have wronged, the main cause of most unexplained sicknesses and "possessions." But you have to have faith to be truly cleansed, she says, since it is not her handiwork, but God's.

For more heavyweight stuff like *kulam* and *barang* (hexing), she'd rather refer people to the "specialists." Cita has tried the *kulam* before, but has given up. "I've asked for the Lord's forgiveness for that," she says. With her earnings as a *magtatawas*, Cita has sent her five children through school. She also does *hilot* (traditional Filipino massage). Text her at 0906-5135220 if you believe. **ABH**

When possessed by evil spirits: This can take the the form of strange behavior, as the "*nanlilisik na mata*" (flashing eyes) and strange voices Cita has witnessed, or mysterious pains and ailments which doctors and medicines cannot seem to cure. The *magtatawas* will take a lump of *tawas* crystal, bits of *kamanyang* or dried aromatic tree sap taken from specially chosen trees, and a piece of palm leaf blessed on Palm Sunday, wrap the lot in paper, and burn it over charcoal. The afflicted must hold his or her face over

(continued on page 15)

Out On The Streets



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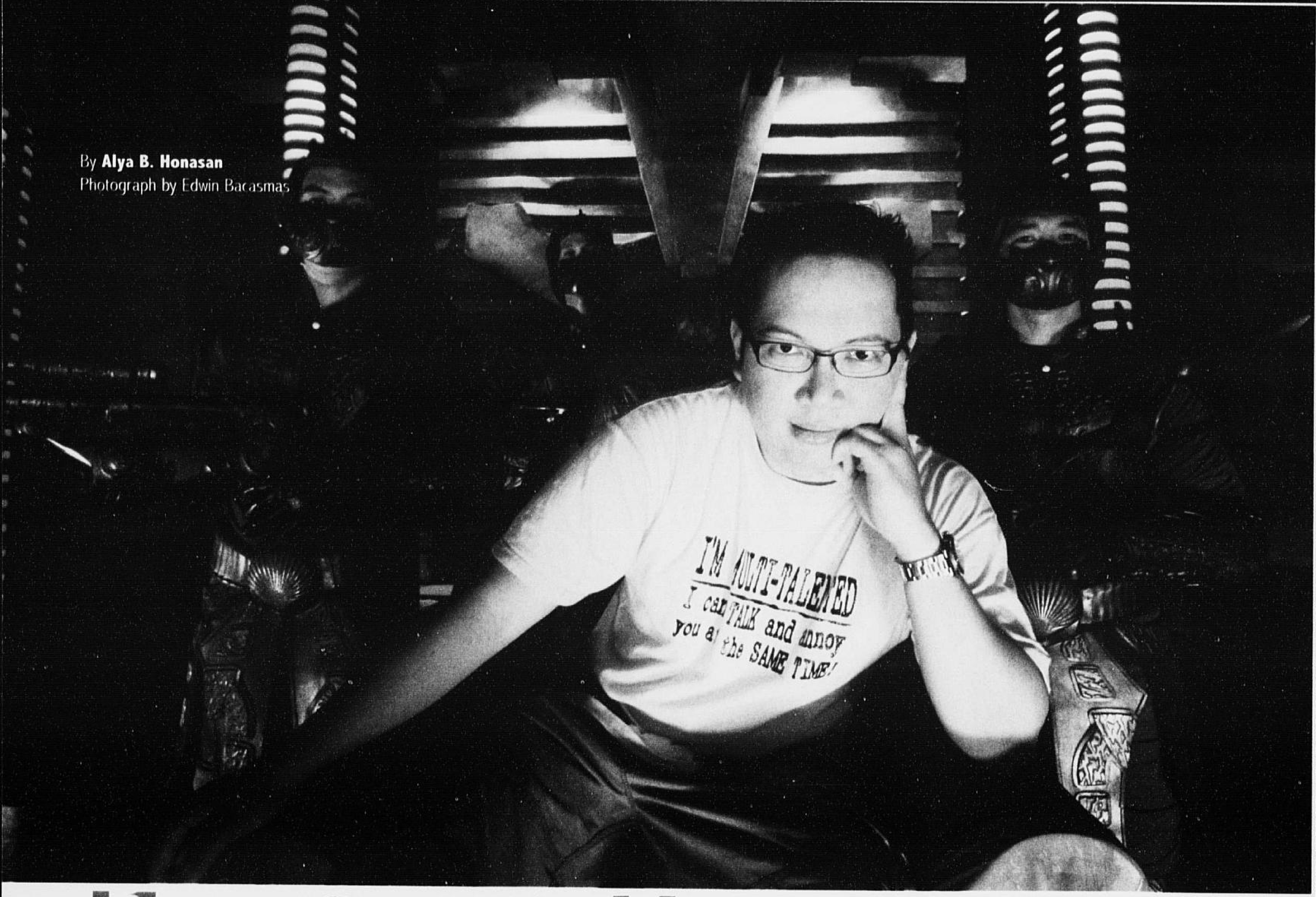
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME



By **Alya B. Honasan**
Photograph by Edwin Bacasmas

I'M MULTI-TALENTED
I can TALK and annoy
you at the SAME TIME!

KING OF HIS WORLD

With his new fantaserye, GMA-7's mega-budget 'Atlantika,' making huge waves, director Mark Reyes has found his power genre—and success is all in the details, he says

IT'S a bit like "Alice in Wonderland": You go through a hole, and there's a different world on the other side. In this case, you drive through a rusty gate set amidst a squatter area in Pasig, and into what looks like an abandoned warehouse lot. It's a portal to the underwater world—specifically, GMA-7's multi-million-peso new TV fantaserye, "Atlantika." Even the floor director, Shirley, yells out instructions like, "Okay, *lipat na sa ibang mundo*!" (Let's move to another world).

"See the details that go into this?" says director Mark Reyes, the 37-year-old wiz behind the series, who was also at the helm of the network's previous blockbuster, "Encantadia," which made the fantaserye genre GMA's trump card. He's yelling out instructions from the cold comfort of the OB van, where multiple images of production designer Rodell Cruz's set of an underwater kingdom flash in the dark. In between, Reyes gets an MMS image of lead star Dingdong Dantes' animated digital clone, to be used in some spectacular scenes, and he forwards it to the actor, who's shooting underwater in Anilao with the series' second unit. Director Mike Tuviera will also be megging some episodes.

"It is working," Reyes says of the genre. "We thought that after 'Encantadia,' 'Captain Barbell' might be the last of its kind. We didn't know if people would still go for the fantaserye. But I guess people still want it. It's a simple case of escapism, which we still need in this country of ours."

Reyes recounts how a friend was eavesdropping on an elevator conversation in a Makati building during the Arroyo impeachment brouhaha, and two people were discussing how somebody was a weak leader and should just resign. Turns out the conversation wasn't about President GMA, but about Amihan, a character in "Encantadia."

A fantaserye requires "10 times more work" than a regular drama or TV show, Reyes says. "You deal with costumes, effects, etc. The audience will be forgiving if it's a drama and there are *uziseros* in the frame or a blemish on the set, because it's reality.

But the minute that happens in a fantaserye and the suspension of disbelief drops, forget it. The illusion will be gone and *tatawa na sila* (they're going to laugh)."

That's why Reyes is often called anal or a perfectionist. "And that's why the production designer says that 'the devil is in the details.' But it's not about perfectionism. You're dealing with a genre where people have to believe what they're seeing. In 'Encantadia,' we pulled it off. After a certain point they were calling the characters by their names." It's a familiarity Reyes hopes to duplicate with his current oeuvre, despite the fact that the show's pilot happened right after Milenyo struck. "We piloted to a city that only had 50 percent power! But we're already picking up in the ratings." The 30-minute episodes air weeknights on GMA-7.

Between exchanges, Reyes darts into the OB van while people work simultaneously on the multiple sets. There's the submarine with hydraulics, a first on Philippine TV; there's costume designer Bill Gustilo checking how his work looks on TV. "*Dusa*" (penance), Gustilo says of the actors' experience under layers of different materials. "I was told to think of water—its colors, its elements, like coral, pearls. This is harder than 'Encantadia' because of that limitation." With centurions in rubber armor designed by Noel Flores and sharkskin-like suits for the underwater scenes being shot by underwater cinematographer Marissa Floirendo, the wardrobe is a mind-bending cross between Camelot and Cousteau.

It helps immensely that Reyes is a dyed-in-the-wool sci-fi buff. "'Star Wars,' 'Star Trek'—I'm a Trekkie, so I knew how to handle all those corridors and control panels," says the Communication Arts graduate of De La Salle University, who broke into TV doing work for "Tatak Pilipino" on ABS-CBN right after graduation in 1991. "Maybe a different director wouldn't have understood. It's not just the movies, but the production elements that I really study."

It's equally tough for the actors, who are tasked with making audiences believe that they really are creatures who live, love, fight and breathe in the ocean. "It's easier for the younger ones, because they get it. You have to tell the senior actors that it's a different, more theatrical attack." Plus, while "Encantadia" dealt with a storyline familiar to Pinoys—swordfights, "Prinsipe Abante" and all that—"Atlantika" is pure science fiction. "Will *Aling* Tasing of the *suking tindahan* get it? But they seem to be getting it, and I expect the ratings to kick in even more after the kids (Dantes, female leads Iza Calzado and Isabel Oli) start appearing."

Water boy: Dingdong Dantes and other leads had to learn how to scuba-dive for the show

Most of the cast had to be certified as open water scuba-divers for the project, including the director. "Well, I'm lying. I'm actually one check-out dive short of being certified, because I had to get to work!" But nowadays, this in-demand auteur, who just wrapped up the hit Robin Padilla-Regine Velasquez starrer "Till I Met You," actually turns to diving to relax. That, and an occasional poker game. Still single and "married to my work," Reyes does have a girlfriend, and says she's complaining about the lack of attention. "Now, that could be a problem."

Even if he is well-versed in the works of local *maestros* like Brocka and Bernal, Reyes, with his Dilbert vibe and cool nerd demeanor, admits that his orientation is indeed Hollywood—and he gets his biggest highs from seeing how the many details, effects and nuances come together flawlessly on screen. "'Encantadia' wowed people, and they said, wow, *kaya pala ito ng Pinoy*," Reyes says. "That set the standard, which we now have to surpass for 'Atlantika.'"

Then a set hand cracks a joke, and the easy laughter reminds you that it's hard work, but still a lot of fun in Mark Reyes' fantasyland. "Sometimes," he says, "we all get a little cuckoo here." •

By Ruel S. De Vera

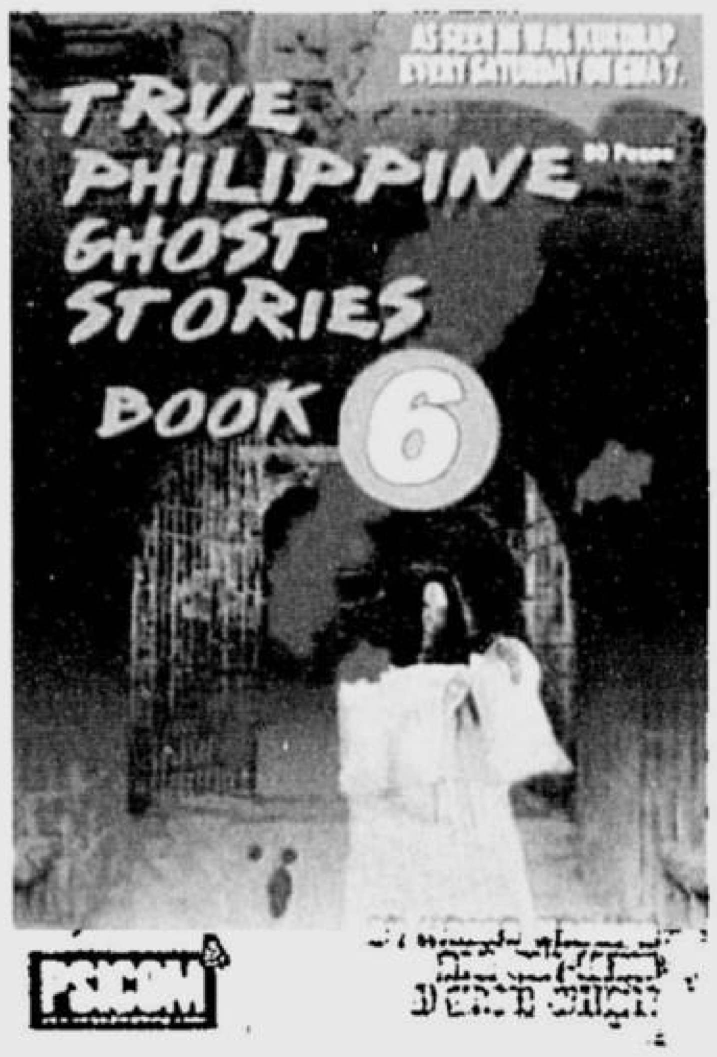
Spook Out Sister

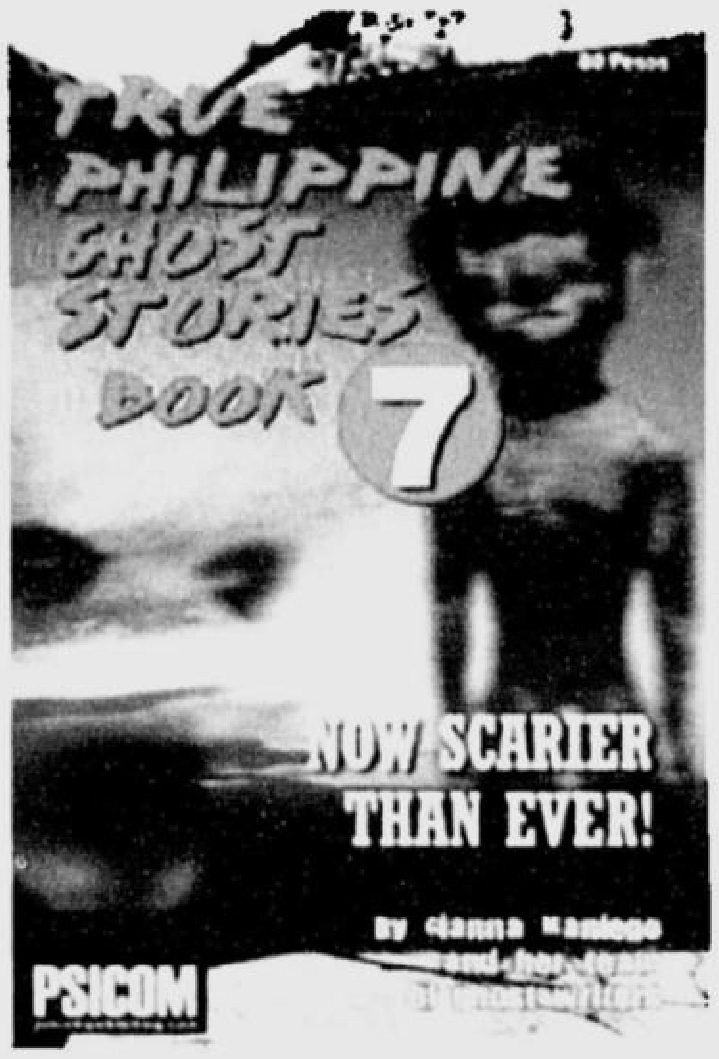
Ryan Lim

QUICK to smile and lively, Gianna Maniego does not seem the least bit scary, yet the 43-year-old Lifestyle editor of the Manila Standard Today has terrified and transfixed more people than you can imagine. That's because Maniego is the often-unseen hand behind Psicom Publishing's "True Philippine Ghost Stories" series, a book line whose sales have been so good it's scary.

Even as a child, Maniego knew the lure of the fear factor, telling her classmates ghost stories during breaks in class, making up her own tales on the spot and using her own illustrations to ratchet up the atmosphere. "When I was young, my *yayas* used to scare me into behaving properly," she recalls. "They would threaten to sic the *mumo* or the *aswang* on me, and I would cower under my pillow at night."

Despite her affinity for storytelling, Maniego initially wanted to become a chemist or industrial engineer except that the math scared her off. She went on a more logical route and graduated from the University of the Philippines with a journalism degree in 1984.


AS SEEN IN WAG KUKURAP EVERY SATURDAY ON GMA 7
TRUE PHILIPPINE GHOST STORIES
BOOK 6
PSICOM



She found her way to Psicom, where she edited a short-lived magazine. The big shift happened in 2001, when Psicom owners Arnel and Jenny Gabriel talked to Maniego about a recent trip to Singapore, where they saw how horror-theme books were raking it in. Could Maniego gather real ghost stories for a book and edit it too?

And that was how, in 2002, the first volume of "True Philippine Ghost Stories" shambled onto bookstore shelves, courtesy of Maniego and her cheekily named "team of ghost writers."

Maniego relied on a vault of different sources for the stories. "Some were based on experience, others were told to me," she recalls. "Once I got the mood of the story, it was easy enough to amp up the scare factor," she adds.

When the books became massive bestsellers, readers themselves began sending in their own experiences that eventually made it to TPGS volumes. "Pretty soon we had third and fourth graders buying the books, although some schools required them to secure written permission from their parents before they can buy the books," she reveals.

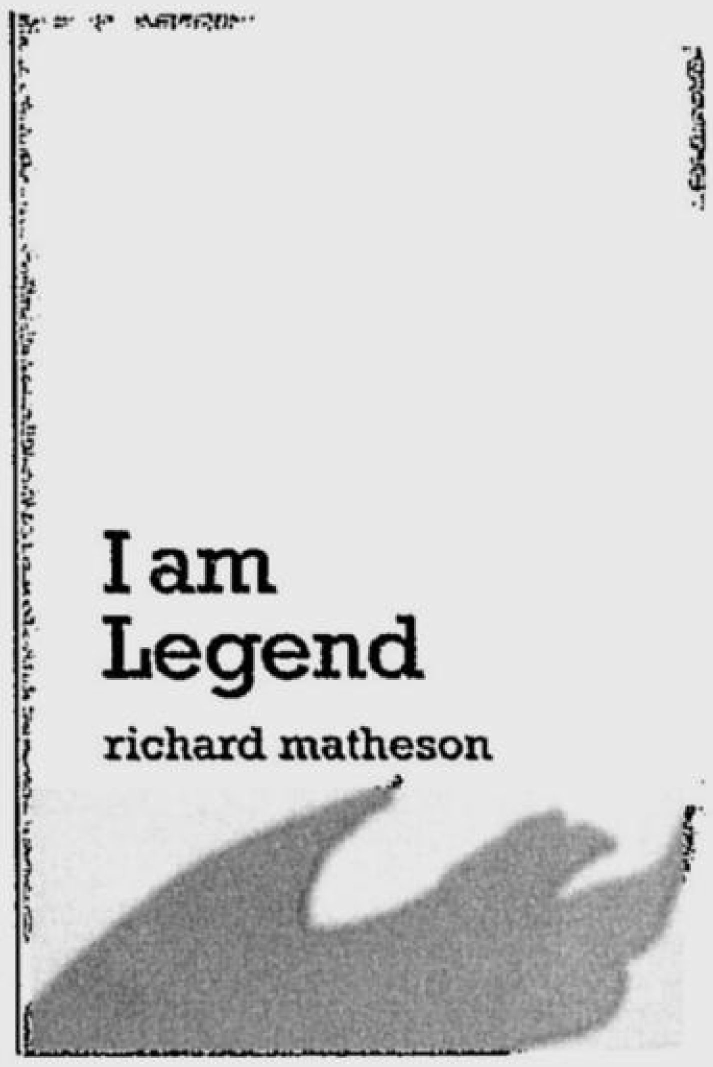
Part of the series' appeal was its accessible writing and attractive price. "They're like bedside companions that readers turn to when they're bored, lonely or restless," Maniego says, adding that readers like bringing the books to sleepovers, campouts, or retreats. Indeed, at P80, the books are cheaper than a movie. So far, the series has sold some 650,000 copies. Additionally, GMA-7 linked up with Psicom for their now-defunct TV scarefest "*Wag Kukurap*." Also in the works is Psicom's "Nightmares," a compilation of completely fictional tales that Maniego also helms.

Psicom's successful scare tactics make sense to Maniego because she says, deep inside, Filipinos really like ghost stories. "I think it's a vicarious thing. They like the thrill of a good scare," explains this mother of a teenage daughter. "At the same time, they appreciate the fact that these things are happening to someone else, not to them."

With Psicom set to launch the 19th volume in the TPGS series in December and TV still very much in the thrall of ratings that go bump in the night, ghost stories have achieved a mainstream popularity that the publishers haven't seen before. "I don't think it's a bad thing as long as readers don't take things too seriously," says Maniego, who plans to continue conjuring up what chills and thrills Filipino readers. "I'm not a skeptic," she says. " I think there are things that can't be explained logically, but nowadays I don't scare that easy."

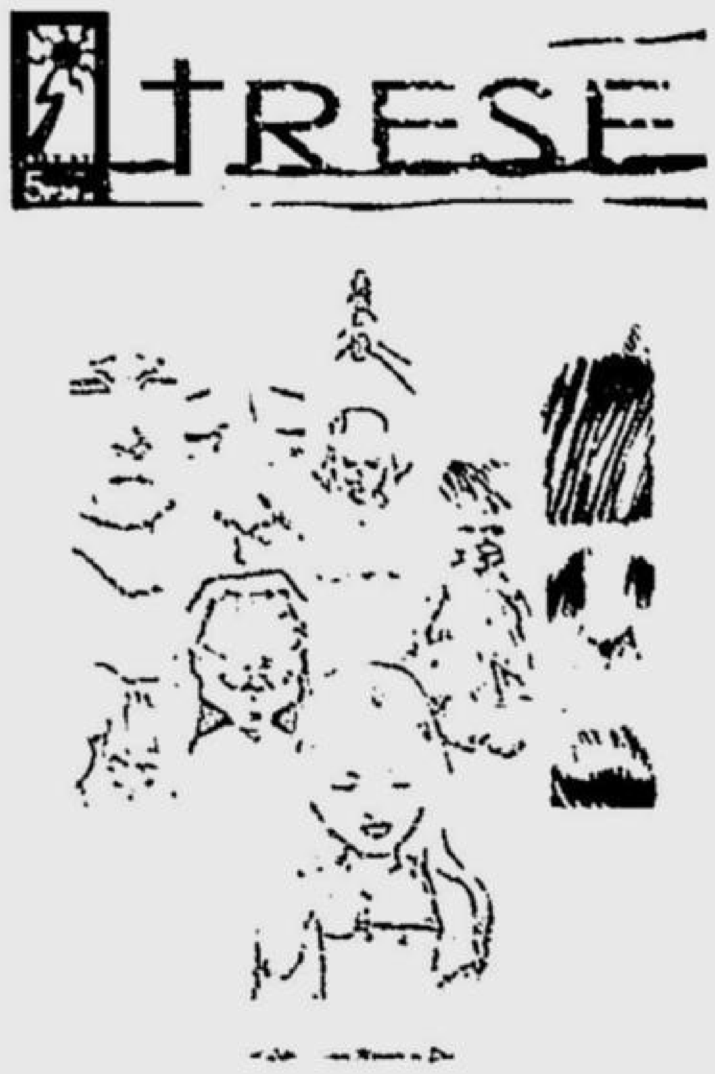
For more information, log on to http://psicompublishing.blogspot.con

A Legend with Teet



THIS is the scariest novel you have most likely not yet read. Richard Matheson's "I am Legend" (Orion, available at National Book Store; P359) was originally published in the 1950s (and, weirdly enough, talks about a dark future—in the 1970s) and has actually seen two movie adaptations. You will probably know more about it once Will Smith finishes shooting the current remake. What is it about this book that makes it worthy of three movies? Maybe it's the premise, of a world where everyone is a vampire—except for one man named Robert Neville, who has proven immune to the vampiric bacteria somehow. Now Neville lives like a vampire in reverse, the only person able to walk around in the daytime but constantly under siege by the undead hordes at night. This ghoulish masterpiece, considered by many to be the best vampire novel not written by Bram Stoker, is well within your reach, thanks to Orion's cool reprint edition. Bon appetit. **Ruel S. De Vera**

The Truth about



TREASURES can be unearthed in black and white. This is the case with "Trese," the magnificently moody supernatural comic book from Budjette Tan and Ka-Jo Baldisimo. Now on its fifth issue, the mini-comic chronicles the adventures of Alexandra Trese, the investigator who has inherited her grandfather's mystical ties, and her lethal bodyguards, the Kambal, as they unravel the spooky happenings in modern Metro Manila. And now, in a touch that makes "Trese" a melding of new and old world in method as well as content, you can experience this superlative comic free on the web by clicking on http://tresekomix.blogspot.com. Every issue, every page up to the fifth issue's "A Little Known Murder in Studio 4," is there, and now you can even pore through "Exhibit 13," the Net-exclusive gallery of "Trese" portraits done by various artists, packaged smartly as police-style evidence. It's all the atmosphere and action you want, plus a heaping helping of the weird. Find it before it finds you. **RSDV**

Tell Me Something
A Tale of Two Sisters

Asian Horror Top 10

BORED with recycled Asian horror clichés like scary hair, cursed tech toys and other "Ringu" ripoffs? Ready for something a little different? Well, run don't walk to your favorite DVD emporium and ask for the following titles. They'll creep you out, big time. Happy Halloween!

1. "Audition" (Japan). Middle-aged widower holds a fake audition for a nonexistent film in order to find a girlfriend, and falls for lovely, demure psycho with a penchant for acupuncture and amputation. Directed by Takashi Miike.

2. "Imprint" (Japan/US). The dark side of "Memoirs of a Geisha." Tormented *gaijin* looks for lost love in Meiji-era Japan, and finds a hideously-disfigured yet seductive prostitute with a dark secret. Directed by Takashi Miike for the American "Masters of Horror" series, "Imprint" was deemed too disturbing even for adult cable audiences, and was never aired.

3. "Going Home" episode from "Three" (Hong Kong). In Peter Chan's haunting episode for this Asian horror trilogy, a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine waits for his dead wife to revive after steeping her body in herbs.

4. "Dumplings" episode from "Three... Extremes" (Hong Kong). Aging beauty Miriam Yeung seeks rejuvenation by eating special dumplings served by Bai Ling—until she finds out what the secret ingredient is. Directed by Fruit Chan.

5. "Memento Mori" (Korea). When unhealthy attachments form in an all-girls' school in Korea, not even death can sever them.

6. "Nang-Nak" (Thailand). In old Siam, a village youth survives a bloody battle with the Burmese, and finds his way back home to his wife and infant child. But why are the villagers shunning them? And why are they turning up dead?

7. "Shutter" (Thailand). A photographer sees dead people through his camera lens. Is it just guilt, or are they for real?

8. "Kairo" (Japan). I haven't seen the Hollywood remake ("Pulse"), but it's hard to imagine how anyone could top the creepy atmospherics in Kiyoshi Kurosawa's original, where the Internet is a portal into hell, or someplace worse.

9. "Tell Me Something" (Korea). A series of grisly murders leads police to a beautiful artist, but is she the next victim, or is she the killer?

10. "A Tale of Two Sisters" (Korea). A uniquely Korean spin on "The Others," and just as nerve-racking. **Eric S. Caruncho**

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

			2				6	3
			8			2		
		7			4			
4	6				5			
		8				3		
			6				7	9
			9			1		
		4			2			
5	7				1			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 10/29

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	3	2	5	6	8	4	7	1
6	7	4	3	2	1	8	9	5
1	5	8	4	9	7	2	6	3
5	8	9	7	4	3	6	1	2
7	2	1	8	5	6	9	3	4
3	4	6	2	1	9	7	5	8
4	6	3	1	7	2	5	8	9
8	9	5	6	3	4	1	2	7
2	1	7	9	8	5	3	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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The Church's ghostbuster (from page 8)

assigned to the Office have the faculty from the Cardinal to perform solemn exorcisms.

For the exorcism to be really effective, it must have the consent of the affected person, says Fr. Jocis. He or she must cease New Age or occult practices and change their sinful lifestyle. "When grace dwells in our soul, when we invite God inside us, there is no place for the devil and it is driven away."

When haunted by a ghost: Haunting, according to Fr. Jocis, may either be due to souls in purgatory seeking prayers, or it could be an infestation, meaning evil spirits are frequenting the place. In the case of haunted houses, it is best to look at the history of the place and when the paranormal occurrences began. Ask around: has something evil happened here? Were there violent events? Were occult practices performed in the place? Such factors attract evil spirits. Bringing in a person sensitive to the presence of spirits can also help discern paranormal activity.

Sometimes, family prayers alone can help, says Fr. Jocis. But sometimes even a house blessing cannot, if the infestation is strong due to occult practices or grave sins that happened in the place, he adds. If there is infestation in your home, call your parish priest, who should then use prayers of deliverance before blessing the place, this priest suggests, adding that you can also use exorcised salt around the place to keep evil spirits away.

Spirits also derive power from their environment, he adds. "A family in disharmony aggravates the situation. *Pag maraming away* and negative emotions, the spirits draw near and worsen the problems. That's why living a virtuous life is important."

When building a new house or opening a new business: Using feng shui principles might attract financial success and good chi, "but they have negative spiritual and emotional trade-offs because our faith teaches us that they are occult in origin," says Fr. Jocis. "Magic is the language of the devil, while prayer is the language of God. Resorting to magical rituals from our animistic past is a way of inviting evil spirits into our life. People then get depressed, get sick and experience a host of problems and difficulties."

Therefore, he suggests, "when moving to a new house or starting a new business venture, it is best to seek blessings from God, Mama Mary, the angels and the saints instead of resorting to good luck charms which is a form of magic, and giving idolatrous offering to fallen spirits." Better to use the sacramentals given to us by God Himself, he adds.

"*Yung pagkatay ng manok* (sacrificing a chicken) when one is building a new house, that's an offering to the fallen angels residing in nature, like elementals, *engkanto* and other nature spirits. Let us also remember that the offerings given them are born of fear and fear is never of God. These offerings then give them more power over us," cautions Fr. Jocis.
Instead, we must seek the Lord's blessings and according to His will, he adds. "We do not need further help from the occult and the New Age if God is with us." • **Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**

Out On The Streets (from page 9)

When haunted by a ghost: A haunted house is in the spiritual realm, and the branch of feng shui that incorporates religion has what is called a "devil catcher." In Tibet, they have an amulet that they call the *"dorje"* or "thunderbolt" which you wear to repel bad influences. As you can see, it resembles a cross.

When building a new house or opening a new business: First we have to determine the zodiac sign of the proprietor, and if this is a good year fòr him, we encourage him to go on. But if the year is unfavorable for him, then we tell him to look for other people to help him in the business whose luck will help the business to prosper. Then we look at the location of the business and determine whether the directions are favorable, and if the directions are not favorable based on the flying star, then we correct them. You cannot do a complete feng shui analysis without explaining these things to the person seeking help. Some people just want charms and amulets, and I tell them that these things only give limited help, that's why we have the free feng shui consultation so we can find out how to correct his problems. **Eric S. Caruncho**

Up In Smoke (from page 9)

the smoke. In cases where it is determined that the afflicted has wronged a spirit, such as by disrespecting or destroying its home, offerings could be made and left at the place identified as the spirit's abode. This can mean anything from rice cakes or soup to cigarettes and softdrinks.

When haunted by a ghost: Cita doesn't believe in restless ghosts; such hauntings are still the doing of "those who are not like us," because they can either be good or evil, she says. The *magtatawas* can carry the same smoking bundle mentioned above around the house, covering all corners while saying specific Latin prayers, depending on the gravity of the possession or haunting. This can be repeated thrice, either on consecutive days or on Tuesdays and Fridays, when paranormal forces are believed to be at their strongest, and preferably before a full moon.

When building a new house or opening a new business: The same combination of elements, including a written prayer, should be wrapped in paper and buried beside one post of a building under construction. The *magtatawas* can also perform the smoking ritual in a new space before it is inhabited. Spirits like quiet, empty places, Cita says, so if the site was previously uninhabited, chances are there are some unseen previous tenants you might want to gently evict. **Alya B. Honasan**

Figure It Out (from page 2)

P850,000: Loyola's most expensive package; includes the above but with an imported brass casket. Both packages are exclusive of the actual burial plot.

P21,000-P100,000: Cost of a 1m x 2.5 m burial plot at a Loyola Memorial Park, depending on the location. There are five Loyola parks.

P45,000: Cost of a cremation at Loyola; includes transport, cremation, marble urn and registration.

iql

In fact, when she's not watching Sponge Bob and other cartoons on Nickelodeon or listening to inspirational music, she's reading her favorite book, the Bible, "especially the Psalms, the Proverbs and the New Testament, although I can't make out what some words really mean. Double meaning *pala.*"

With barely a year in showbiz, Isabel says she's proudest of her family and how she's reached this point in her career. "I never expected this, but God seems to be bringing me towards this direction."

Out On The Streets (from page 9)

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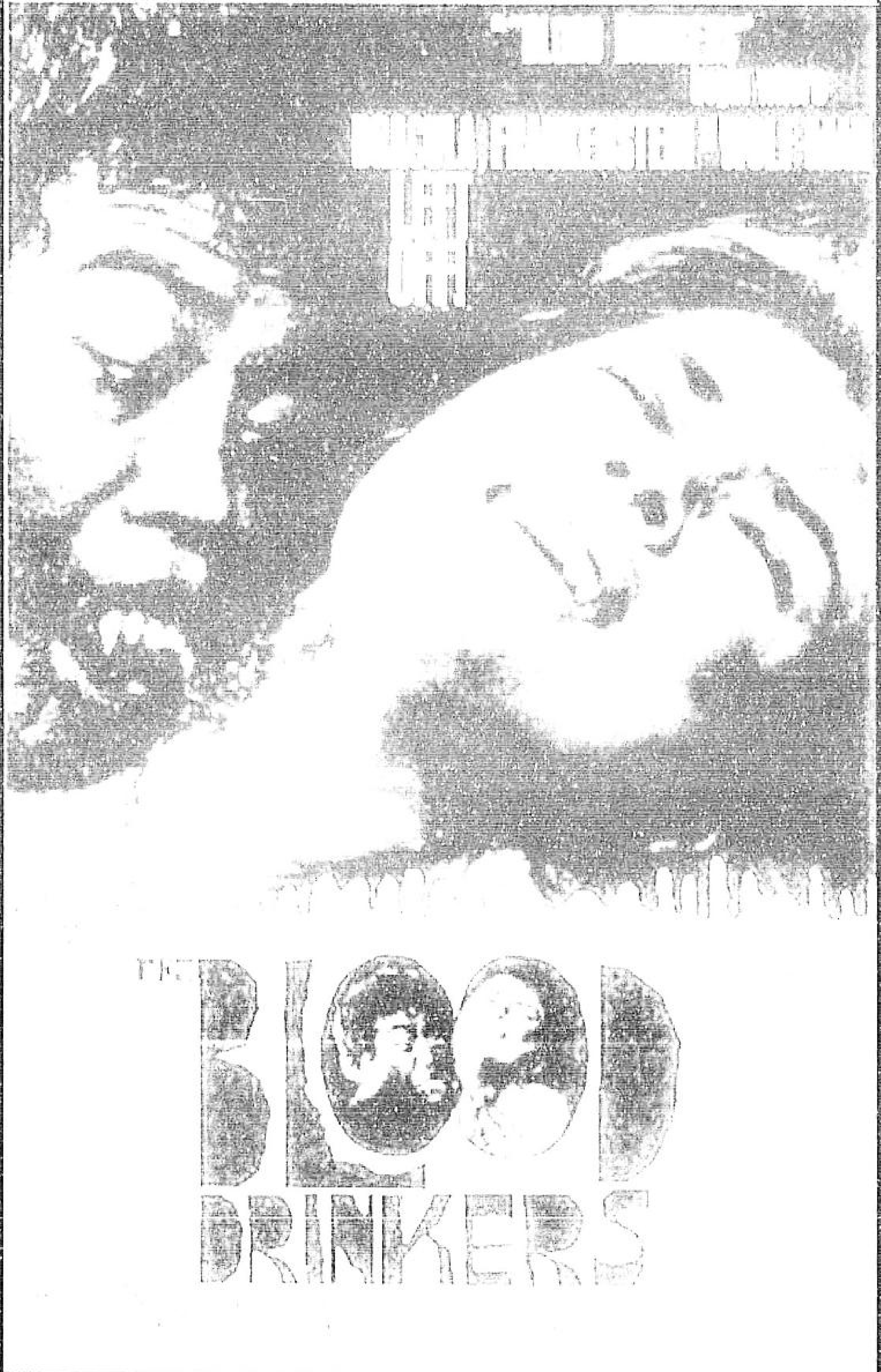
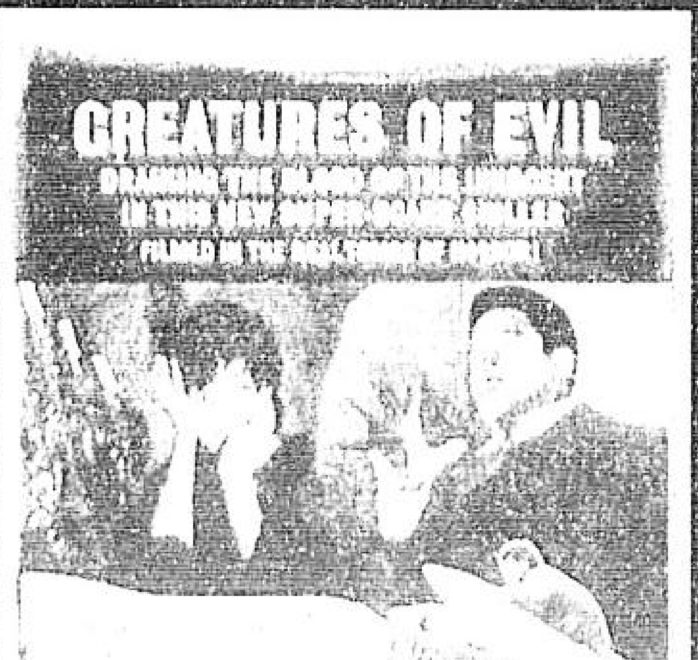
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

TROPICAL GOTHIC

“POSSESSED! By The Spirit Of Self-Destruction”
DRIVEN! To Satisfy The Lust Of The BLOOD DRINKERS!”
“A Legion Of UNDEAD CREATURES
Rise From Their BLOODY COFFINS!”
“Human BAT-FIENDS Claw Their Way To NEW TERRORS!”
“Vampires Violate The Young In A SLAUGHTER Of HORROR!” “A Cult Of Undead Creatures Seek Fresh, Warm, Human Blood!”

Local cineastes may revere National Artist Gerry de Leon for *“Noli Me Tangere,” “Daigdig ng Mga Api”* and “The Moises Padilla Story”—and rightly so. But for sheer guilty pleasure, film cultists prefer the string of vampire flicks he helmed in the ’60s and early ’70s, shoestring-budget B pictures with titles like “Terror Is A Man,” “The Blood Drinkers,” “The Mad Doctor of Blood Island” and “Blood of the Vampires,” if only for the chance to see the likes of Ronald Remy, Eddie Garcia and Amalia Fuentes with fangs. Ironically, they’re also the only de Leon films readily available on DVD, which probably has the Maestro turning in his grave.



BLOOD OF THE VAMPIRES
Sink Your Teeth In
Select-a-Neck
Extra Fangs